AKIRA 2

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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BOOK TWO

DARK HORSE COMICS®

translation and english-language adaptation
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AKIRA BOOK TWO

THE STORY SO FAR

Thirty-eight years after a cataclysmic explosion of unknown origin levels Tokyo and triggers World War III, the world is rebuilding from the ashes. Neo-Tokyo has risen from the rubble and is preparing for the first postwar Olympic games, a shining new stadium being erected at Ground Zero of the blast that obliterated the great city.

A group of teenage motorcycle toughs, led by Kaneda, makes an unauthorized run into the blast site where they encounter a terrified, wizened child with the number 26 tattooed on his palm and possessing of fantastic telekinetic power. Kaneda's friend Tetsuo is seriously injured during the encounter, after which the child suddenly disappears into thin air, not long before military police arrive and take Tetsuo for medical attention.

Later, Kaneda meets a beautiful and mysterious young woman named Kei, a member of an underground resistance group opposed to the goings-on in the dead zone of the old city. When Kei and her associate Ryu become entangled with Kaneda and his friends, a second encounter with Number 26 unexpectedly occurs, quickly escalating into all-out mayhem as a covert government team led by the mysterious Colonel arrives on the scene to capture the ailing Number 26, named Takashi, by utilizing the aid of another such powerful child, Masaru. Ryu and Kei fight their way to safety as Kaneda is caught in the middle of a destructive psychic maelstrom. Kaneda manages to escape, taking with him a small capsule dropped by Takashi, intended to quell his agony.

After returning to school, where his friends wonder about the fate of Tetsuo, Kaneda becomes obsessed with Takashi's capsule, and so he has a friend at the school infirmary analyze it. The drug is unregistered but clearly top-secret and incredibly potent, far too powerful for typical human consumption. Out of the blue, Tetsuo rejoins his mates, seemingly no worse for his near-death accident, although his demeanor soon becomes violent, unstable, and paranoid. Tetsuo is then taken from school by the Colonel after examination of electro-encephalograms reveal that Tetsuo himself shows potential for developing psychokinetic abilities. At a secret facility, Tetsuo undergoes a battery of tests while another aged child psychic, Kiyoko, foretells the awakening of yet another of her brethren — Akira — a revelation that stuns the Colonel and sends shockwaves through the corridors of power. Another jolt occurs when Tetsuo's dormant powers switch on and, steeped in growing pain, he escapes the facility, leaving a trail of destruction and death in his wake.

Kaneda goes looking for Kei and finds her and her conspirators engaged in an act of sabotage at the Olympic site. The clandestine group puts Kaneda under wraps and grills him as to the location of the capsule he earlier purloined. Kaneda denies any knowledge of the capsule, having hidden it in the gas tank of his motorcycle. The military, having discovered the group's hideout, breaks in, and Ryu, Kei, and Kaneda flee. Kei and Kaneda entering the vast sewers and tunnels beneath the city that lead into the dead zone. Chased by soldiers on high-tech, heavily armed flying platforms, Kei and Kaneda barely escape to the surface with their lives, although several of their pursuers are not so lucky.

On the streets of the city, the fevered Tetsuo is discovered by a rival bike gang, the drug-dealing Clowns, who plan to do him in until Tetsuo's growing powers dispatch his would-be killer in a grisly explosion of psychic fury. Tetsuo demands drugs to stop the pounding in his head, and the terrified bikers offer to take Tetsuo to their hangout to give him what he needs. There, the gang's angry leader, Joker, is quickly mollified by a violent demonstration of Tetsuo's power. Tetsuo takes enough drugs to kill a normal human many times over, the only consequence being a momentary dulling of his headache. The Clowns crown the apparently superhuman Tetsuo as their new leader.

Meanwhile, deep beneath ground zero in a hidden, ultra-security complex, the Colonel arrives to check the conditions of a near-absolute-zero stasis chamber designed to hold prisoner a single occupant — the entity known only as Akira, the power responsible for the destruction of Tokyo and World War III. Despite Kiyoko's portentous visions, everything is as it should be...for the time being.

The Tetsuo-led Clowns, emboldened by the awesome power of their new chief, begin a violent rampage against rival bikers. Informed of Tetsuo's treachery and the strange powers he now exhibits, Kaneda hastily arranges a meeting of the other rival gangs, who decide to band together to take on Tetsuo and the Clowns. Elsewhere, Ryu meets with Nezu, the leader of the underground, who has uncovered evidence that suggests the government has been for many years creating a unit of paranormal humans.

After a wild motorcycle battle with the Clowns, a contingent of bikers led by Kaneda's friend Yamagata corners Tetsuo in a warehouse. Tetsuo, growing more powerful and more agonized by the minute, easily thwarts his attackers. Kaneda has the opportunity to shoot the paranormal madman, but the long association with his boyhood friend prevents him from pulling the trigger. Yamagata tries to do the job himself, but Tetsuo kills him horribly. Kaneda hesitates no longer and shoots Tetsuo, who in a wounded rage unleashes a burst of telekinetic destruction, Kaneda barely avoiding being crushed by falling debris. The Colonel and his forces arrive to find the wounded, pain-engulfed Tetsuo screaming for drugs. Kaneda attacks him again, and in the struggle the capsule drops from his pocket. Tetsuo grabs the pill and prepares to take it, even as the Colonel warns him that the drug will kill him.

Tetsuo swallows the pill and almost immediately goes into a massive seizure and collapses, apparently dead. The Colonel has Kaneda taken prisoner but is interrupted as, incredibly, Tetsuo rises. Kaneda breaks away from his captors in an attempt to again attack his former friend, but a tidal wave of psychokinetic force sends Kaneda running for his life. Kei arrives in the nick of time to help Kaneda, but Tetsuo's power prevents their escape. The effects of the super-drug have eliminated Tetsuo's pain, and he prepares to kill Kaneda and Kei when he is suddenly confronted by the Colonel, who tells Tetsuo that he can be helped, both with the drug that takes away his pain and with training to help him utilize his power to its fullest capability. Tetsuo realizes he has few alternatives when the pain returns, and so he becomes the latest addition to the Colonel's paranormal menagerie — Number 41.

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The artwork of this volume has been produced as a mirror-image of the original Japanese edition to conform to English-language standards.

Published by Dark Horse Comics, Inc., 10956 S.E. Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222 • www.darkhorse.com

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First edition: March 2001 • ISBN: 1-56971-499-1

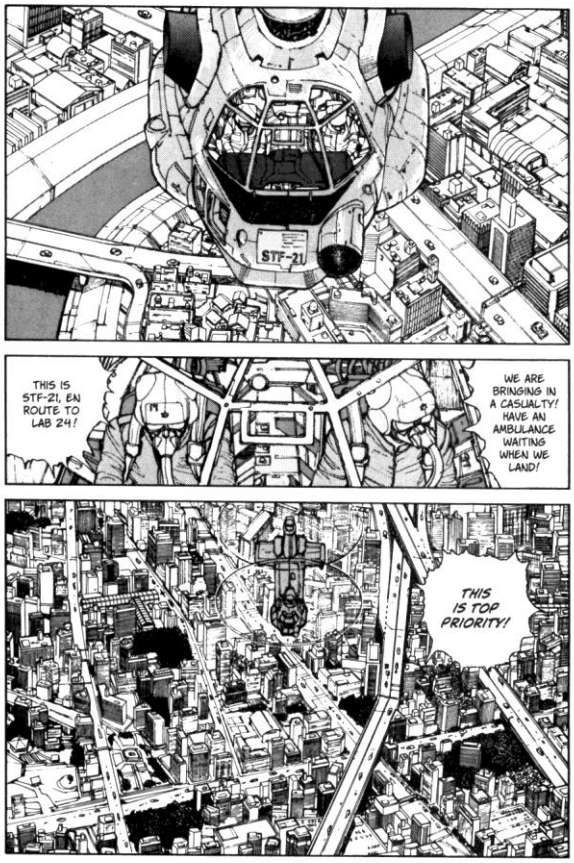
Printed in Canada • 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

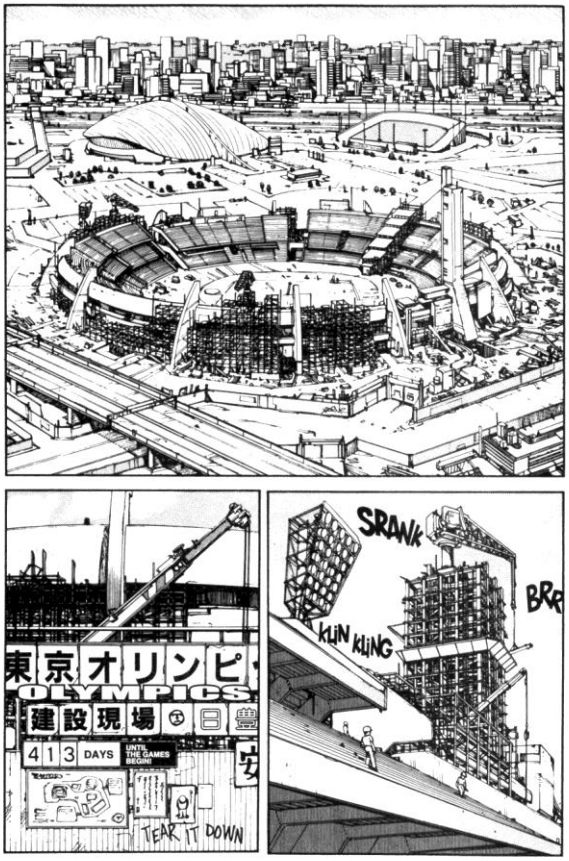
AKIRA
BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

TE... TSU... O...?!
HE'S ON HIS WAY TO BECOMING ONE OF US. THEY CALL HIM NUMBER 41.
YES. TETSUO.
IS HE...
...VERY POWERFUL?
HMM?
IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
...

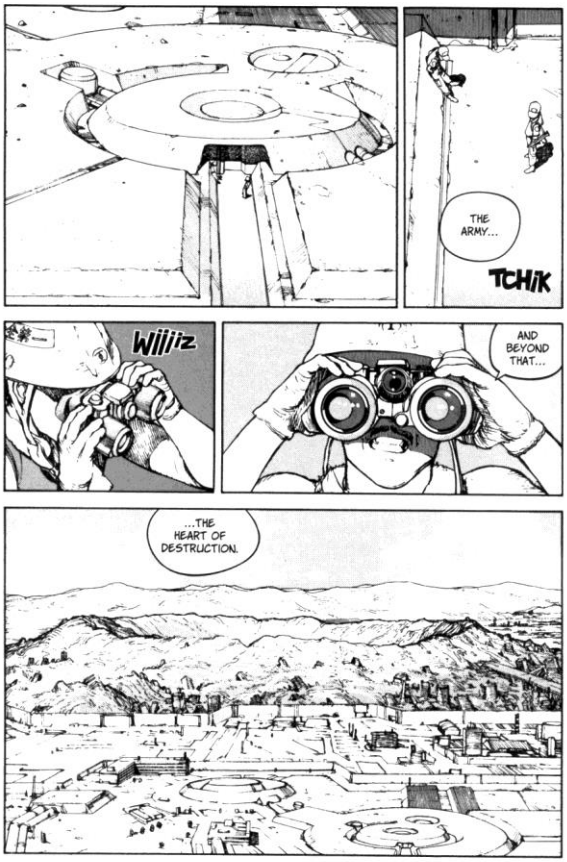
JUST A FEELING I HAVE... LIKE SOMEONE'S TALKING ABOUT ME.
YES. HE'S VERY POWERFUL.
IN THE END...
...HE WILL SURPASS ALL OF US.
DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE POWERFUL ENOUGH...TO DEFEAT AKIRA?
"IF HE DOES, WHAT WILL BECOME OF US?"
YES...

I DON'T KNOW.
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
BUT...
WHOA! H-HEY!!
KANEDA!!
...THERE ARE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN HAMPER NUMBER 41.


STF-21
THIS IS STF-21, EN ROUTE TO LAB 24!
WE ARE BRINGING IN A CASUALTY! HAVE AN AMBULANCE WAITING WHEN WE LAND!
THIS IS TOP PRIORITY!


東京オリンピ
OLYMPICS
建設現場
413 DAYS
UNTIL THE GAMES BEGIN
TEAR IT DOWN
SRANK
KLIN KLING
BRR

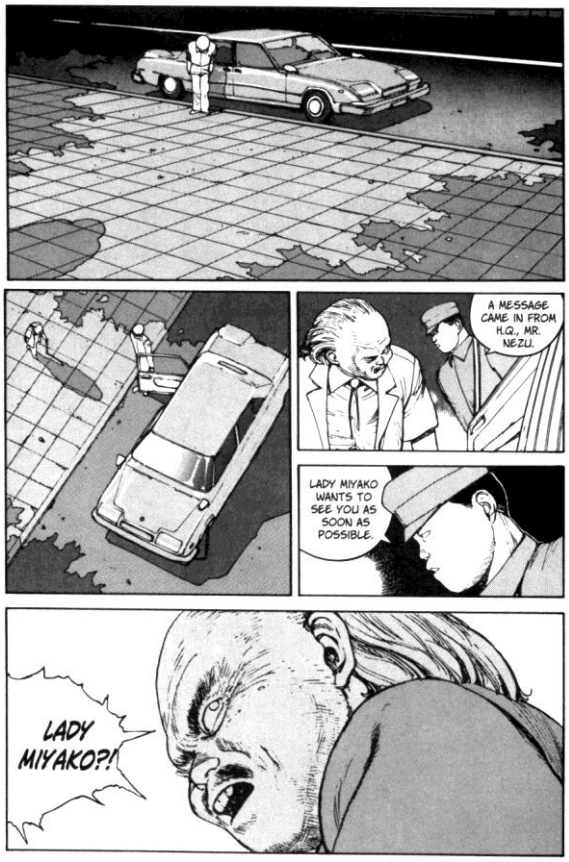
ZRiiiii
KATAN
GLANG
KLAW
...
A HELIPORT ...


THE ARMY...
TCHIK
Wiiiiz
AND BEYOND THAT...
...THE HEART OF DESTRUCTION.

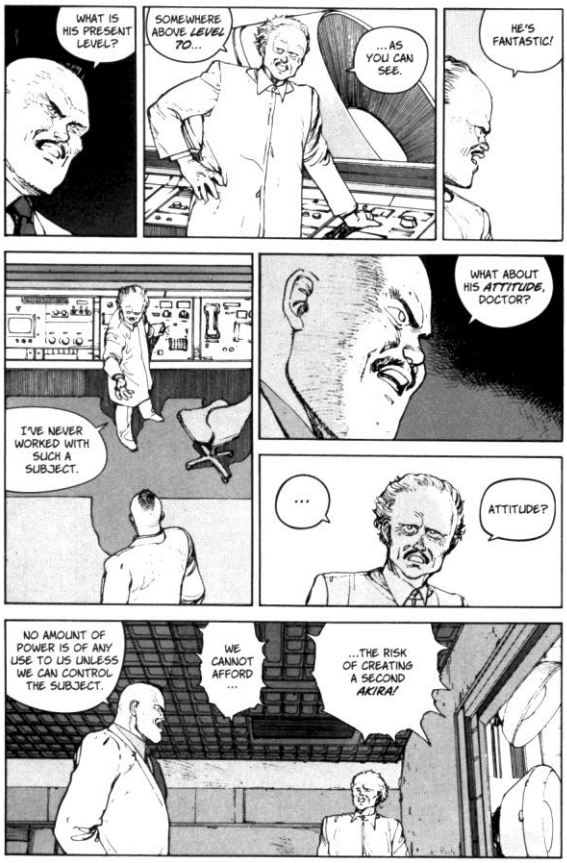
!
FDD
YOU'RE GETTING A NICE TAN, WORKING IN THE SUN ALL DAY, RYU.

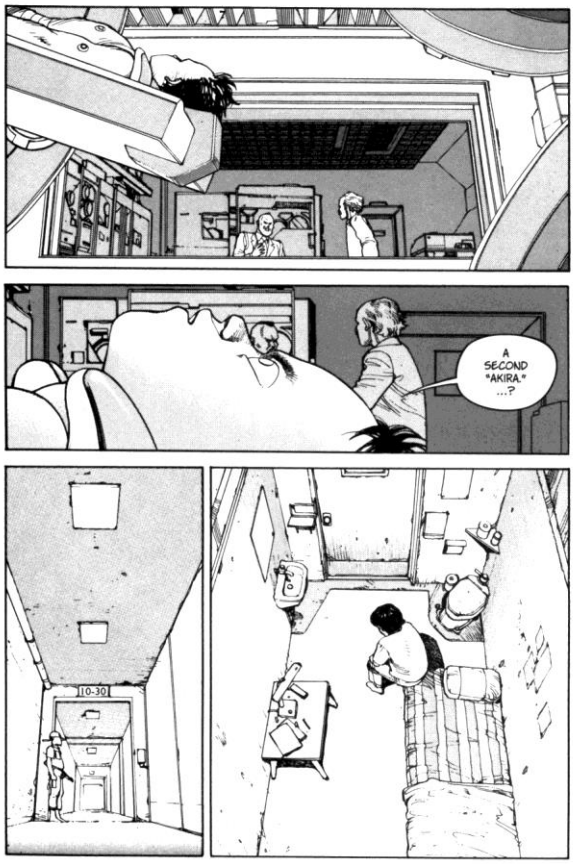
HAVE YOU BEEN IN TOUCH WITH... KEI...? YOUR SISTER?
ANY LUCK AT THE OLYMPIC SITE? HAVE YOU ACQUIRED ANY USEABLE INFORMATION?
NOT YET.
TAK
DEVELOP THOSE. THEY'RE OF THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT NEXT TO THE SITE.
I FAIL TO SEE WHAT--
INTERESTING PLACE.
DUE SOUTH OF THE SITE, AND CRAWLING WITH SOLDIERS. OFF-LIMITS TO CONSTRUCTION WORKERS...
...AND TOO HEAVILY GUARDED FOR ME TO GET ANYWHERE NEAR IT.
DO WHAT YOU CAN--WE DESPERATELY NEED MORE INFORMATION!
THE ARMY HAS JUST ACQUIRED MORE LAND, AND THEY ARE CALLING FOR MANEUVERS ON A MASSIVE SCALE.

IT SEEMS THE PROJECT IS NOW UNDERWAY.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I CAN'T TELL YOU YET, BUT THE INFORMATION IS RELIABLE.
WE HAVE TO DEVELOP NEW STRATEGIES TO STOP THEM, WHICH MEANS...
...I NEED YOU TO WRAP UP YOUR INVESTIGATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
RIGHT.
GET ON IT AT ONCE!

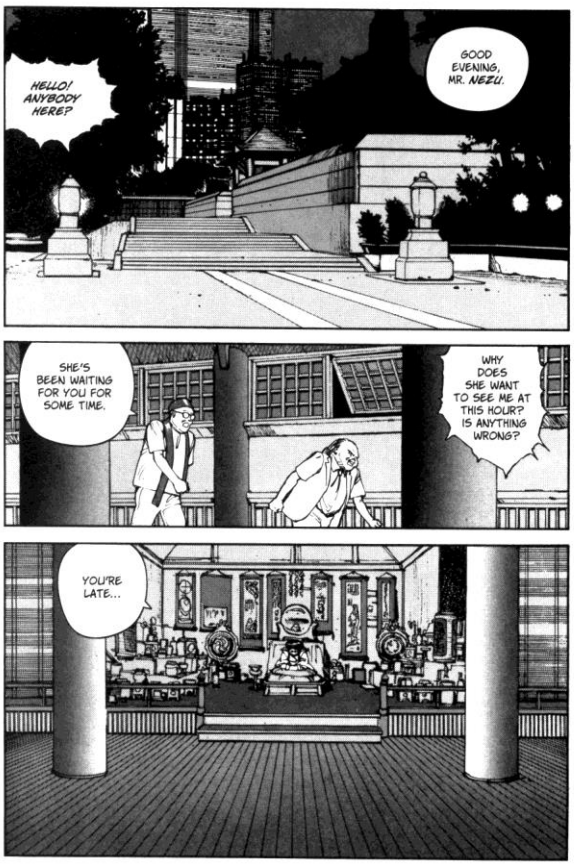

A MESSAGE CAME IN FROM H.Q., MR. NEZU.
LADY MIYAKO WANTS TO SEE YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
LADY MIYAKO?!

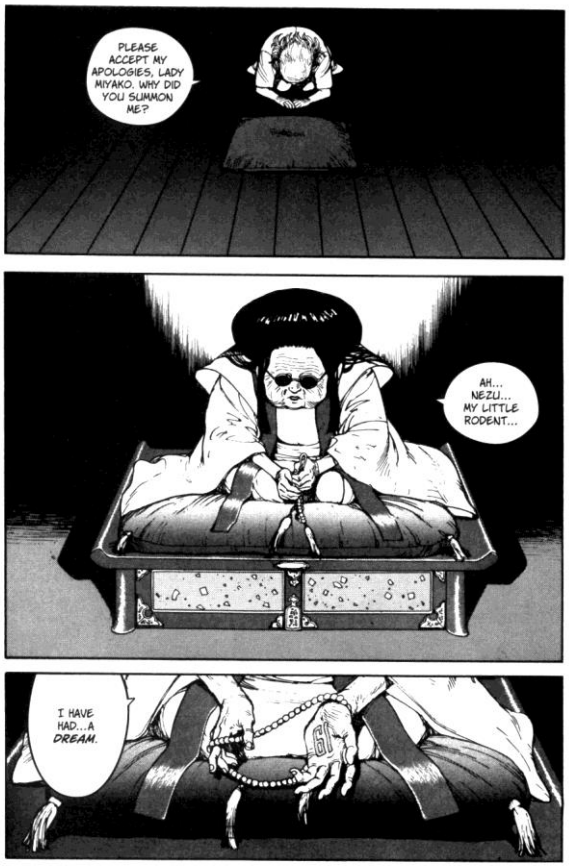
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, TETSUO?
FINE. UNLESS I DIE OF BOREDOM! WHY DON'T YOU PUT ON SOME MUSIC?
HIS INJURIES, DOCTOR?
ALL BUT HEALED, COLONEL. YOU COULD NEVER TELL HE'D BEEN SHOT TODAY. HIS RECOVERY HAS BEEN SUPER-HUMAN.


WHAT IS HIS PRESENT LEVEL?
SOMEWHERE ABOVE LEVEL 70...
...AS YOU CAN SEE.
HE'S FANTASTIC!
I'VE NEVER WORKED WITH SUCH A SUBJECT.
WHAT ABOUT HIS ATTITUDE, DOCTOR?
...
ATTITUDE?
NO AMOUNT OF POWER IS OF ANY USE TO US UNLESS WE CAN CONTROL THE SUBJECT.
WE CANNOT AFFORD ...
...THE RISK OF CREATING A SECOND AKIRA!


A SECOND "AKIRA." ...?
10-30

WOK
...SHIT.
GOD DAMN IT...
LEMME OUT, YOU BASTARDS!!


HELLO! ANYBODY HERE?
GOOD EVENING, MR. NEZU.
SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR SOME TIME.
WHY DOES SHE WANT TO SEE ME AT THIS HOUR? IS ANYTHING WRONG?
YOU'RE LATE...


PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES, LADY MIYAKO. WHY DID YOU SUMMON ME?
AH... NEZU... MY LITTLE RODENT...
I HAVE HAD...A DREAM.

A... A DREAM OF WHAT, MY LADY?
I DREAMED...OF DISASTER.
WHAT... SORT OF DISASTER?
A GREAT DISASTER... ONE THAT WILL ALTER THE FACE OF THE WORLD.
NONE OF US CAN STOP IT.
BECAUSE... DESTINY CANNOT BE AVERTED.

IS IT... AKIRA?
IT IS FATE.
AKIRA IS A PAWN, AS ARE WE ALL.
THE DAY OF HIS AWAKENING DRAWS EVER CLOSER. ALREADY, EVENTS HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION.
FOR YOU-- FOR YOUR ENTIRE PEOPLE'S PARTY-- THIS WILL BE THE TURNING POINT. IT MUST NOT CATCH YOU UNAWARES.

RAAK
ON YOUR FEET!
WHAT A ♥ CUTIE! ♥ WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BABE?
MOVE IT! NOW!!
COME ON, GIRLIE. THEY WANT TO QUESTION YOU.
HEY!

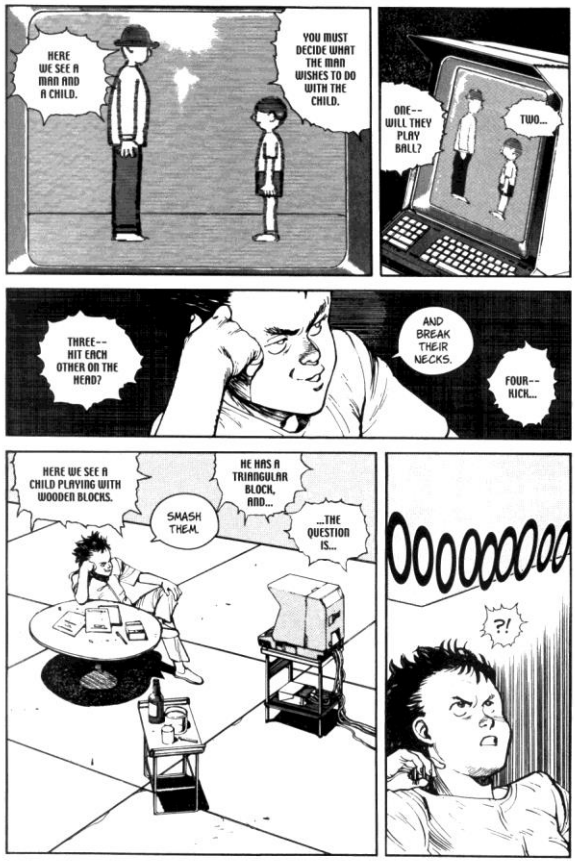
POOR YAMAGATA...
Y'KNOW, I COULD MAKE YOUR STAY HERE A LOT NICER IF--
THAT'S ENOUGH, IDIOT!
I COULD GET YOU A MAGAZINE OR SOME CANDY. WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?
I SAID KNOCK IT OFF!
AW, JUST KIDDING! SOME PEOPLE CAN'T TAKE A JOKE... HUH, BABE?
LIFE'S MORE FUN WHEN YOU AREN'T AFRAID TO ENJOY YOURSELF, HUH?

LISTEN, IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT OR NEED TO MAKE YOU MORE COMFORTABLE...
THE GIRL'S WANTED FOR SPECIAL QUESTIONING. THEY'RE WAITING FOR HER IN E BLOCK.
...YOU JUST SEND WORD TO MARUKAME IN UNIT 3, OKAY? THAT'S ME.
SHRIIC
WHAT A LUCKY BREAK FOR YOU, HAVING A NICE GUY LIKE ME GUARDING YOU.
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM.
NO SPECIAL PRIVILEGES, NO EXCEPTIONS!
COOL OUT. SHE'S JUST A GIRL.
SHUT UP!
TING
IN HERE!

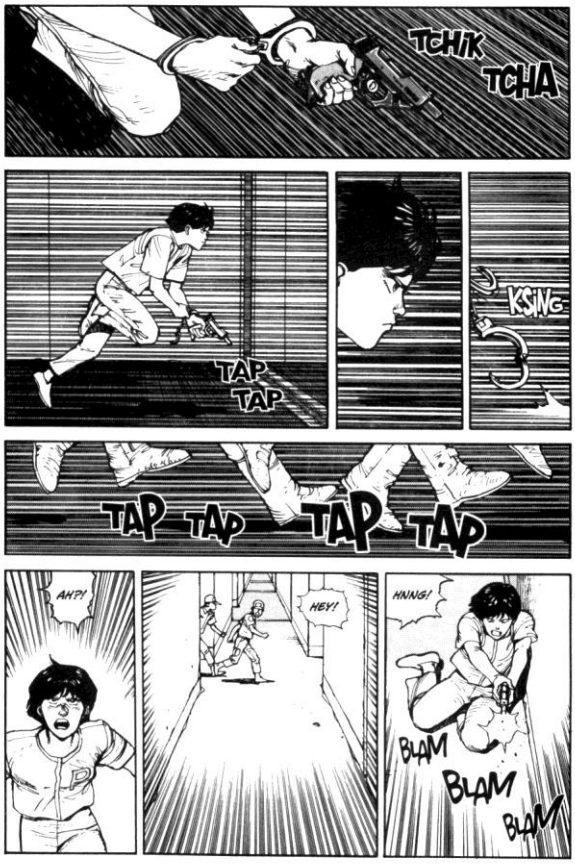
BIP
!
KSHIN
HUNH--?!
SWIIP
WHAT THE--?!

HYAAA
!
OW!
SKOF
YOU BITCH!
HEY!
FREEZE!
PSAF
WAIT! OPEN UP!

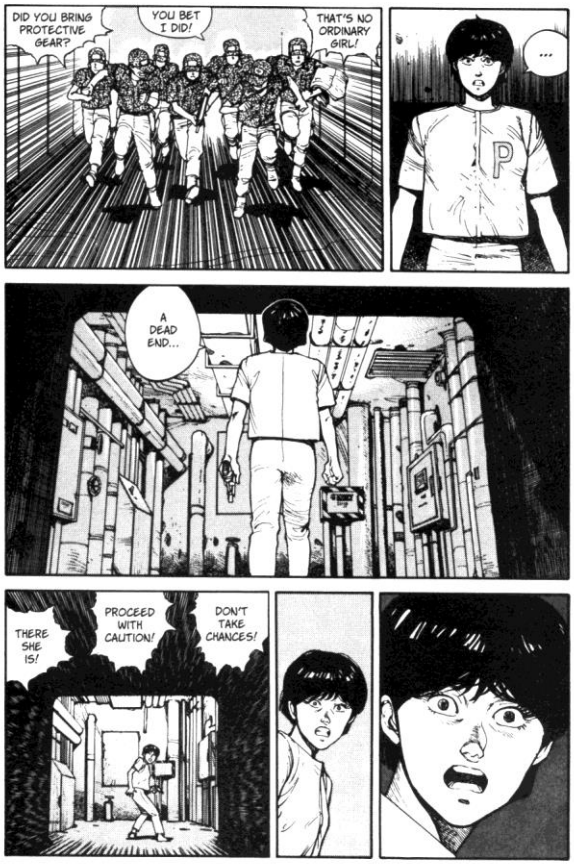
HEY!!
MY...
...MY ARMS !!!
?
!
YAAAH!
KRAK

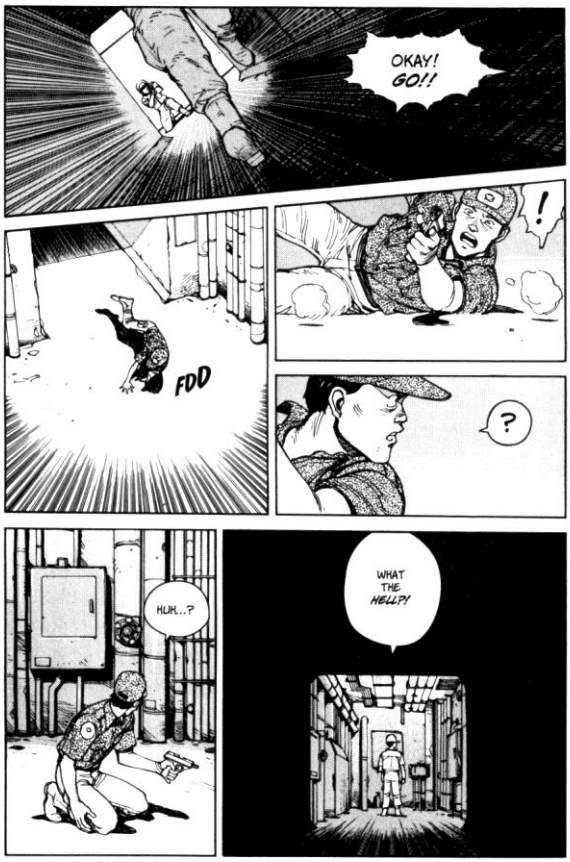

HERE WE SEE A MAN AND A CHILD.
YOU MUST DECIDE WHAT THE MAN WISHES TO DO WITH THE CHILD.
ONE-- WILL THEY PLAY BALL?
TWO...
THREE-- HIT EACH OTHER ON THE HEAD?
AND BREAK THEIR NECKS.
FOUR-- KICK...
HERE WE SEE A CHILD PLAYING WITH WOODEN BLOCKS.
SMASH THEM.
HE HAS A TRIANGULAR BLOCK, AND...
...THE QUESTION IS...
?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

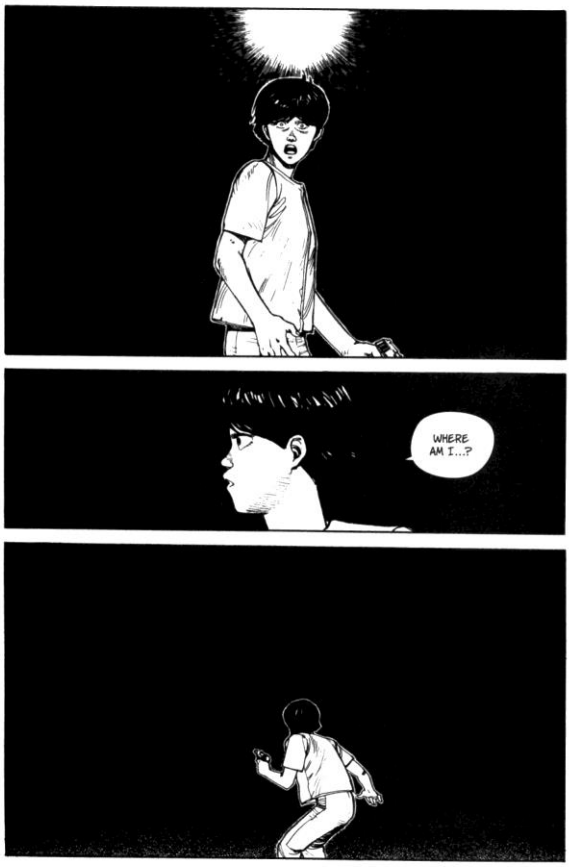

TCHIK
TCHA
TAP
TAP
KSING
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
AH?!
HEY!
HNNG!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

!
PAM
ZiiNK
TAP
TAP
SHE'S HEADING DOWN A BLIND ALLEY! CALL FOR SUPPORT! SHE MUST BE TAKEN ALIVE AT ALL COSTS!
I'VE GOT TO GET RYU!

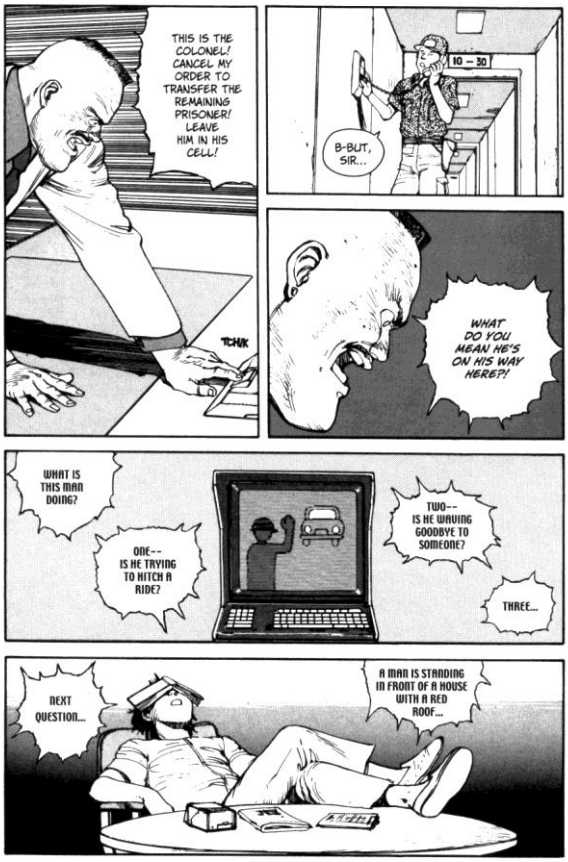

DID YOU BRING PROTECTIVE GEAR?
YOU BET I DID!
THAT'S NO ORDINARY GIRL!
...
A DEAD END...
THERE SHE IS!
PROCEED WITH CAUTION!
DON'T TAKE CHANCES!


OKAY!
GO!!
!
FDD
?
HUH...?
WHAT
THE
HELL?!

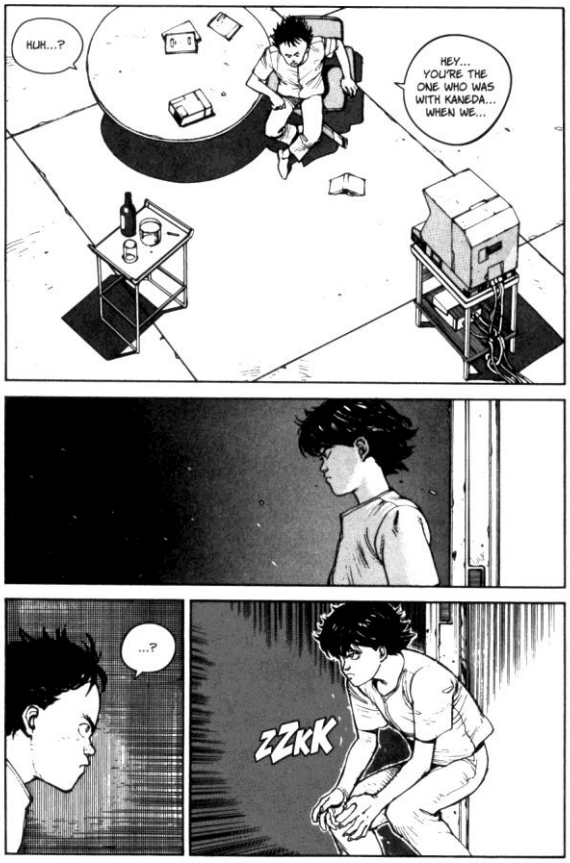
WHAT DO YOU MEAN SHE DISAPPEARED?!
WE... WE ONLY LOST SIGHT OF HER FOR AN INSTANT, SIR.
SHE WAS DEAD AHEAD OF US... TRAPPED...
BAM
YOU IDIOTS!
YES, SIR! SORRY, SIR!!
THAT'S THE HIGH-SECURITY BLOCK--NOT EVEN A COCKROACH COULD GET OUT OF THERE!
NOW GO AND FIND HER!!!
YES, SIR!!


WHERE AM I...?

THEY'RE STILL CHECKING, SIR, BUT SO FAR THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF HER.
YOUR OPINION ...?
BUT, IF I MIGHT SUGGEST...DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT A BOY WHO WAS BROUGHT IN WITH HER...?
WITHOUT PROPER TESTS, THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN SPECULATING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT SHE HAS THE POWER.
I'VE ALREADY ORDERED HIM BROUGHT HERE.
!
DAMN !!


THIS IS THE COLONEL! CANCEL MY ORDER TO TRANSFER THE REMAINING PRISONER! LEAVE HIM IN HIS CELL!
TCHIK
10 – 30
B-BUT, SIR...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE'S ON HIS WAY HERE?!
WHAT IS THIS MAN DOING?
ONE-- IS HE TRYING TO HITCH A RIDE?
TWO-- IS HE WAVING GOODBYE TO SOMEONE?
THREE...
NEXT QUESTION...
A MAN IS STANDING IN FRONT OF A HOUSE WITH A RED ROOF...

TCHIIK
!!!
P


HUH...?
HEY... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS WITH KANEDA... WHEN WE...
...?
ZZKK

VOOF
BLAM
BLAM
!
?AUGH!?
FWHAM
CHTOK
CHTOK
!

SO...
YOU WANNA
PLAY?
SVOOM
SHiiiiV
!

WOOOAAA!!
FWOOM
STOP!!
BLAKAM

DAMN HER...
Riiik
YOU'RE MINE!!! YOU GOT THAT?!
SPLAT
TCHOK
TCHOK
DZZZ DZZ
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
GO AHEAD! RUN!

CROOM
FLSSH
ZBAM
WHAT'SA MATTER? NOWHERE TO GO?
HUNH?!

DZZ!!!!!!
BANG
HOW...?

FRAAK
COME BACK HERE!!
YIIII--!
?
SHE...SHE TELEPORTED ...?!

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
MOVE IT!!
THEY'RE WEARING PROTECTIVE GEAR.
YOU GUYS ALWAYS GET THIS MUCH TRAFFIC THROUGH HERE?
SHUT UP!
ANYWHERE AROUND HERE A GUY COULD TAKE A LEAK?
I SAID SHUT YOUR MOUTH!!
NO KIDDING... I CAN'T HOLD IT MUCH LONGER!
CONTROL YOURSELF OR YOU CLEAN IT UP!
WHAT THE...?
!

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
POUM
BLAM
AAAH!
FIRE!!
BLAM
KEEP SHOOTING!
BLAM
THE BULLETS ARE HAVING NO EFFECT!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
YAAA!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
RUN!
YOU—?!

KEI!
RADIO FOR BACKUP!
BLANG
THESE GUNS ARE USELESS !!
WE HAVEN'T HIT HER ONCE!!
KEI! IT'S ME!
COME ON!!
LOWER THE FIRE DOORS! WE'LL BOX HER IN!
CLEAR THE AREA! THEY'RE COMING DOWN!
GROOOON
KEI!!

SAYONARA, DUMBASS!
HEY!
WAIT FOR ME, KEI!
RROOON
SLAP
SAFE!
SHRiiic
ZGONG
KEI... BABY...

I GUESS I MISSED A LOT...BEING KNOCKED OUT AND ALL. I'M CLUELESS AS TO WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
UH...HAVE I TOLD YOU HOW GREAT IT IS TO SEE YOU?
NO KIDDING, BABY... I WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
MAN, THIS IS *GREAT*, HUH?
BACK TOGETHER AGAIN...

?
!
WHA...
WHA...WHA...
WHAT?!
WHAT DID YOU DO?! WHERE ARE WE?!

HERE IT COMES...
...NOW!!
SHE DISAPPEARED!
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
HMMM...
RUN THE TAPE AGAIN!
TOTAL INSTANTA-NEOUS MATTER TRANSFER...
...
A CLASSIC D-15 STYLE TELEPORTER... EXHIBITING THE SAME ABILITY AS NUMBER 26...
I DISAGREE. SHE IS CLEARLY A C-20...
TAP
TAP

IT'S ME. IS THE DOCTOR THERE?
YES, COLONEL?
WHAT IS NUMBER 41'S CONDITION?
HIS BULLET WOUNDS HAVE HEALED WITHOUT A TRACE.
AND ALTHOUGH HE HAS JUST UNDERGONE SEVERE PSYCHIC TRAUMA...
...HE HAS ALREADY FULLY RECOVERED.
THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED, COLONEL!!
WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH THERE, COME TO MY OFFICE. THERE'S A TAPE I WANT YOU TO SEE.
VERY GOOD, SIR. IN HALF AN HOUR.
I'LL BE WAITING.

I THINK THAT WILL BE ALL FOR NOW.
WE'LL GIVE YOU THREE DAYS OFF, THEN RESUME TESTING.
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE--AM I...?
?
AH... YOU MEAN THAT GIRL? SHE...
THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE HERE... WITH POWERS LIKE MINE. RIGHT?
SHE TELE-PORTED! I SAW IT!!

...
COULD I LEARN TO DO THAT?
WE-E-ELL...
THAT MEANS NO, DOESN'T IT?!
BUT VERY FEW. TALENT IS RARE... COMBINATIONS OF TALENTS ARE EVEN MORE RARE...
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, WITH ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT TALENTS. SOME ARE ATHLETES AND SOME ARE ARTISTS, FOR EXAMPLE...
BUT SOME JOCKS ARE ARTISTS, TOO!
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE, AM I?
THERE ARE...A FEW OTHERS.

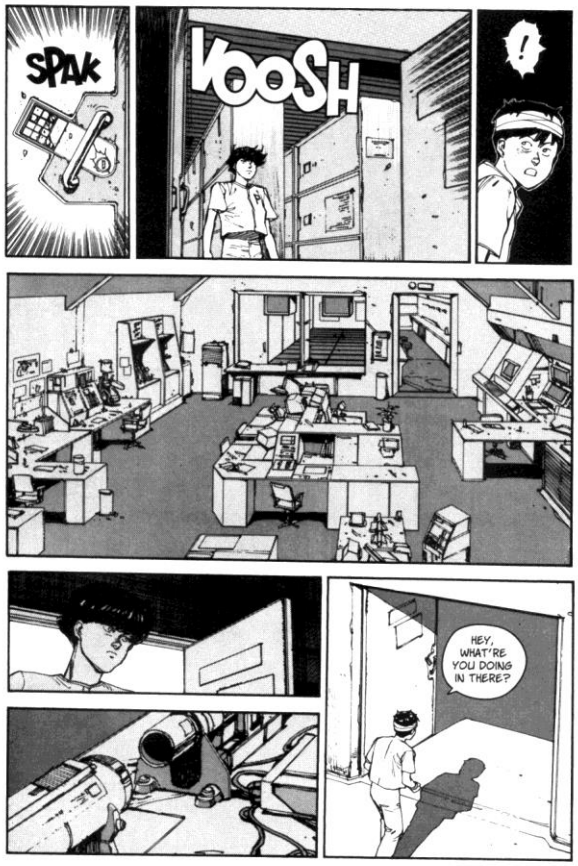
IS ONE OF THEM AKIRA?
WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT NAME?!
CHLAM
I WANT TO MEET HIM...RIGHT NOW.
UH...
...I'M AFRAID THAT'S QUITE IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU SEE, AKIRA IS SLEEPING FAR BELOW THE GROUND... IN A ROOM KEPT NEAR ABSOLUTE ZERO.

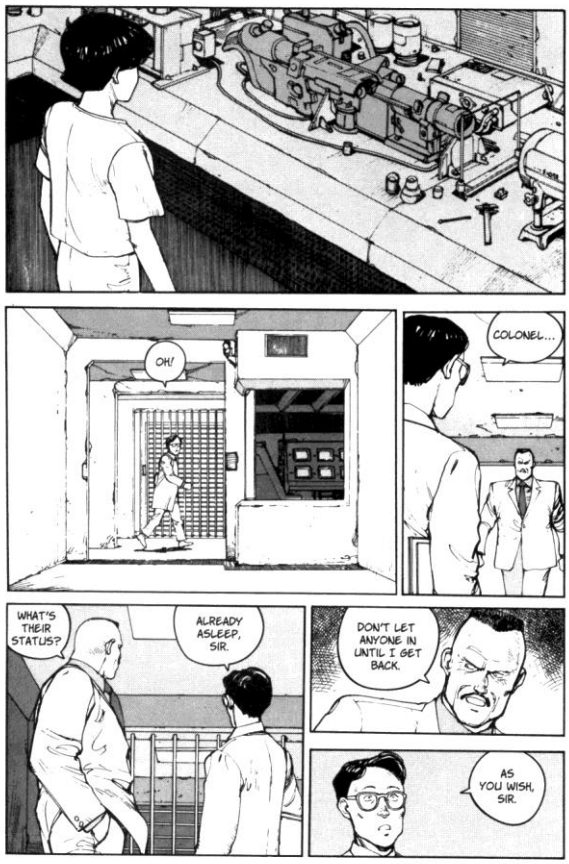
TOK
TOK
TOK
...
IS AKIRA REALLY THAT POWERFUL?
I... SO I'VE HEARD.
HE WAS DEVELOPED BY OTHER SCIENTISTS, BEFORE THE WAR.

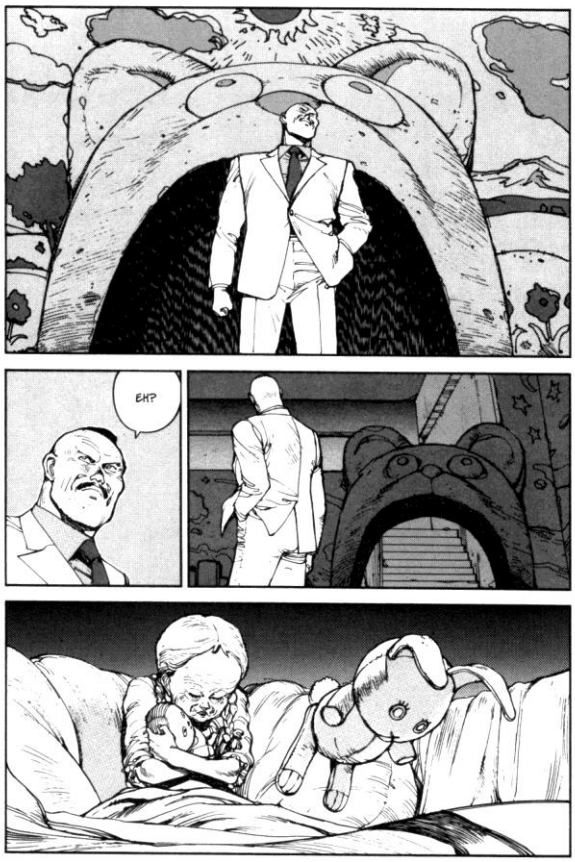
"ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I'VE READ IN FILES FROM MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS AGO."
PSHiii
YOU MEAN AKIRA'S BEEN SLEEPING SINCE BEFORE THE BIG WAR?
WELL... SORT OF.
"SO... ARE THERE OTHERS LIKE HIM HERE?"
VMMMM
YES.
YOU'LL BE MEETING THEM LATER.
THEY'RE KIDS... AREN'T THEY?
WHAT?!

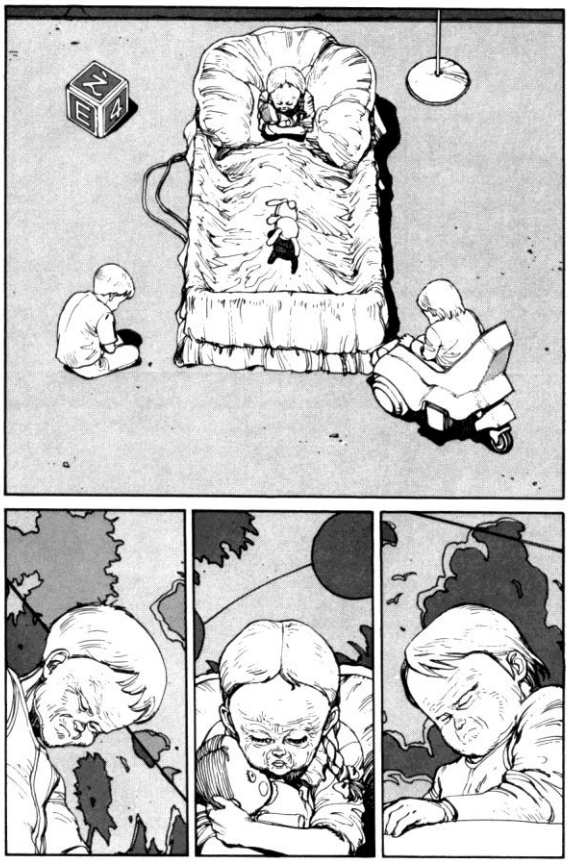
WAIT A SECOND...
COULD IT BE...THE CHILDREN ARE...?!
D-DID YOU READ MY MIND?! CAN YOU--
I WANT TO MEET THEM! RIGHT NOW!!
WOOOSH
TAP TAP TAP
"B..."
"B-BUT--?!"
TAP TAP

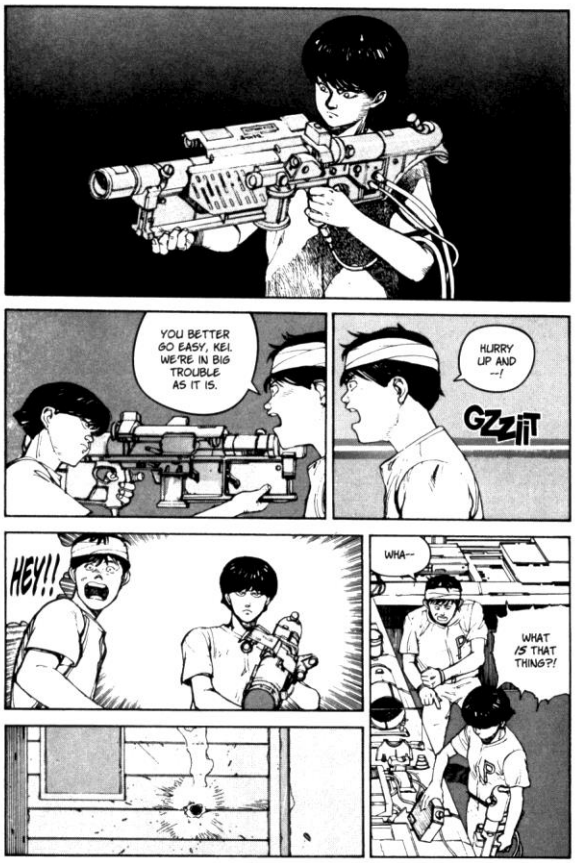
THIS IS THE ARMORY!
HOW'D I GET IN HERE?
HUH?
KEI...?
YO! KEI!
WEIRD!
KEIII!!!
DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY


SPAK
VOOSH
!
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THERE?


OH!
COLONEL...
WHAT'S THEIR STATUS?
ALREADY ASLEEP, SIR.
DON'T LET ANYONE IN UNTIL I GET BACK.
AS YOU WISH, SIR.


EH?




YOU BETTER GO EASY, KEI. WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE AS IT IS.
HURRY UP AND --!
GZZIIT
HEY!!
WHA--
WHAT IS THAT THING?!

...!
HUNH?
NOW WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
!!
WHO'S THERE ?!

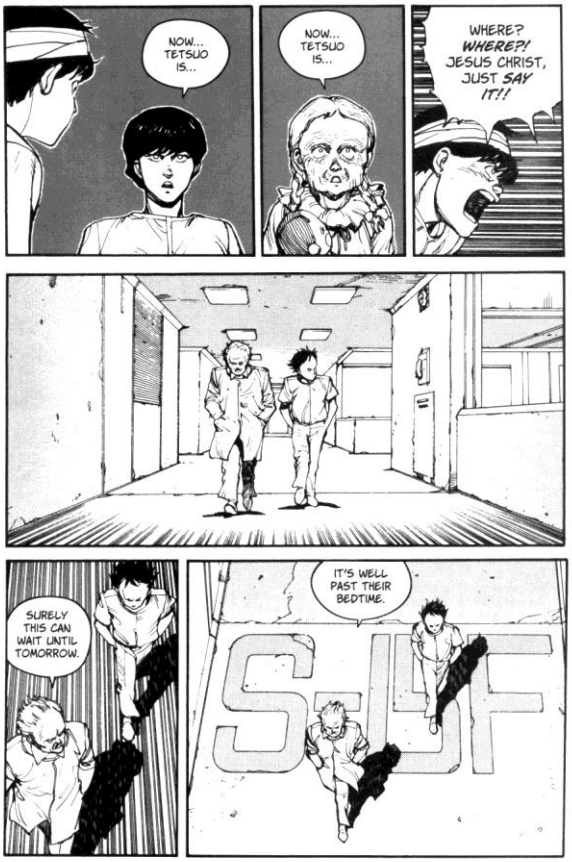
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THE MOMENT I SAW THE TAPES.
THAT GIRL USED TELEPORTATION...
...AN EXCEEDINGLY RARE TALENT... WHICH YOU POSSESS!
WHY ARE YOU MANIPULATING HER?

TO KILL HIM.
KILL WHO?!
YES...
TO KILL... TETSUO...
TO KILL TETSUO?!
KILL HIM HOW?!
HUH?!
IS THAT WHAT THE GUN'S FOR? HEY?!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?!
IS HE HERE?
IS TETSUO IN THIS FRIGGIN' PLACE?!

WHY?!
WHAT HAS NUMBER 41 DONE TO MAKE YOU WANT TO KILL HIM?!
KIYOKO!
I SAW IT IN A DREAM...
A CATACLYSM... BUILDINGS DESTROYED... PEOPLE DYING...
AND YOU BELIEVE THAT NUMBER 41--THAT TETSUO--WILL DO SUCH A THING?

NO... BUT AKIRA WILL.
AKIRA!
WHY WOULD AKIRA DESTROY ANYTHING? AND WHAT HAS NUMBER 41 TO DO WITH IT?
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO KILL TETSUO.
I'M DOWN WITH THAT! WHERE IS HE?!
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO KILL TETSUO.
HOWEVER...
...IT'S MORE THAN WE CAN ACCOMPLISH ALONE, THAT'S WHY...
YOU USED THAT GIRL! WHERE IS SHE NOW?!

GUNS... CAN'T HARM HIM NOW.
WE NEEDED SOMETHING... MORE.
SOMETHING MORE...?
SOMETHING FAST... A BEAM OF LIGHT...
THE LASER RIFLE!!
SO THAT'S WHERE SHE IS!
WHERE IS HE?! WHERE'S TETSUO?!
HEY!!


NOW... TETSUO IS...
NOW... TETSUO IS...
WHERE? WHERE?! JESUS CHRIST, JUST SAY IT!!
SURELY THIS CAN WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW.
IT'S WELL PAST THEIR BEDTIME.

S-15F...?
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?
S-15F...
!?
I'VE GOT IT! FIFTEENTH FLOOR OF THE SOUTH BUILDING, RIGHT?!
KSANK
YEEEE!
WHA--!?
WHAT?!?
K-KA-KANEDA...
Y-YEAH...?
WHERE ARE WE?
HOW DID WE GET HERE?!

:SIGH:
THE GIRL IS FREE AGAIN.
WHAT?!
FREE...?! YOU MEAN UNDER HER OWN CONTROL?!
UH-HUNH.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
:HUFF:
:HUFF:
:HFF:
ALL RIGHT!
KIYOKO, I'LL EXPECT A FULL EXPLANATION WHEN I RETURN!

YOU!!
TETSUO!!
DAMN IT, DOCTOR--
I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT... H-HE *INSISTED* ON COMING IMMEDIATELY...
SO, HOW ABOUT INTRODUCING US, HUH?

TE...
TETSU... O...
YOU'RE THE ONES...
...
SO... WHICH ONE OF YOU IS GOOD AT *RUNNING*?

HMPH.
NOT YOU, OBVIOUSLY.
AND WHO LIKES TO PAINT?
STOP IT!!
WHAT'S THE STORY ON YOU LITTLE FREAKS?
NUMBER 41! RETURN TO YOUR QUARTERS IMMEDIATELY!
SHUT UP! I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU, AND I'M NOT SOME STINKIN' NUMBER!

SLINK
AAH... BE CAREFUL WITH THAT, HUNH?
ZGWiiu
RIGHT...
WHOA! THIS THING'S AMAZING.
NO SHIT.

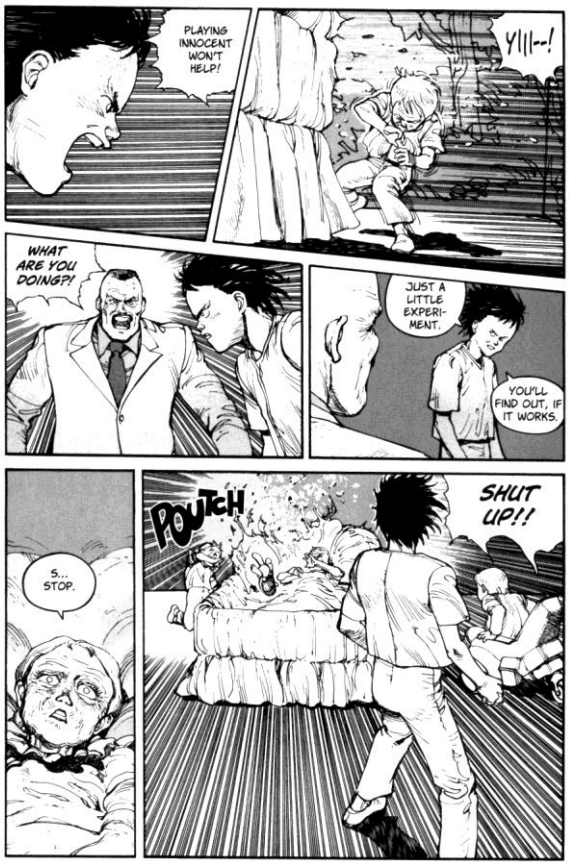
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.
HEY...
WAIT A MINUTE.
WHAT FOR?
I WAS TOTALLY OUT OF IT UNTIL A FEW MINUTES AGO... RIGHT?
AND WHEN I CAME TO, YOU WERE NEXT TO ME...
IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER, IT DOESN'T MATTER... RIGHT?
ANYWAY, WE GOTTA GET OUR BUTTS IN GEAR AND CHECK OUT THE SOUTH BUILDING.
WHILE I WAS...OUT... YOU DIDN'T... TOUCH ME, OR ANYTHING... DID YOU?
HAHN...?!

YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME...
WHERE'S AKIRA?
WHA--
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT AKIRA?!?
DOCTOR --?!
I DIDN'T TELL HIM, COLONEL ...!
WHERE'S HE SACKED OUT?
NOT HERE.
HMM?

IN ANY CASE, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE... TETSUO.
YES, SIR! I'M VERY SORRY, SIR!
I'VE GOT *OTHER THINGS* TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW, BUT I'M HOLDING YOU *FULLY RESPONSIBLE* FOR THIS, DOCTOR!!
VVRROOM

NOW I REMEMBER!
!
26
I KNOW WHERE I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE!
YOU'RE THAT KID FROM THAT NIGHT OUT ON THE HIGHWAY!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!
...
WHAT? WHAT?!
OOH!! YOU FILTHY PIG!
HEY, HEY! WAIT A SEC! YOU'VE TOTALLY GOT THE WRONG IDEA! I DIDN'T--
SHUT UP, PERVERT!

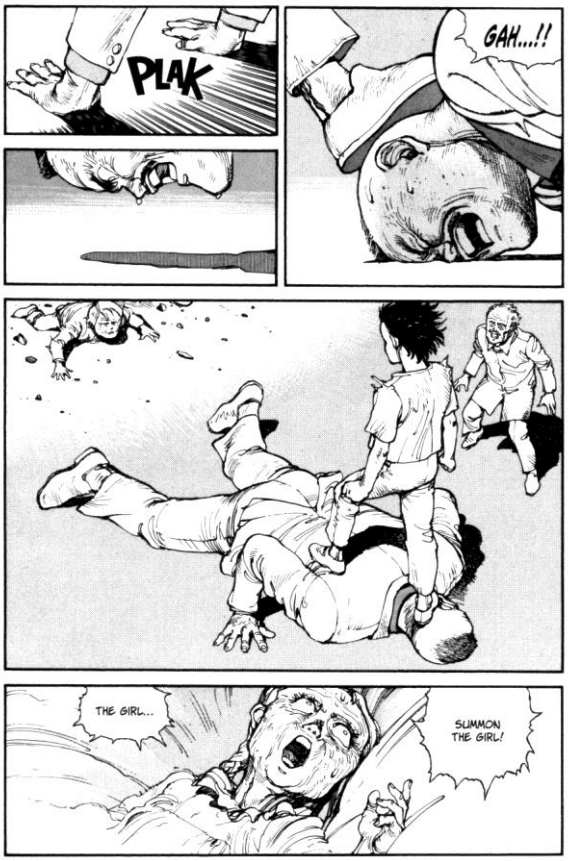

PLAYING INNOCENT WON'T HELP!
YIII--!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
JUST A LITTLE EXPERI-MENT.
YOU'LL FIND OUT, IF IT WORKS.
S... STOP.
POUTCH
SHUT UP!!

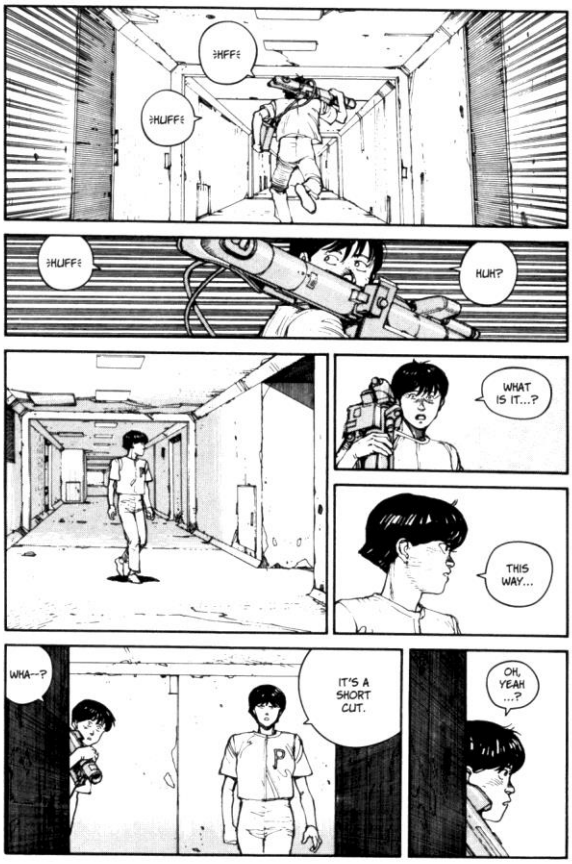
HOW DARE YOU!
SHOOF
?!
NNG!
MASARU!
HELP ME, TAKASHI!
OKAY-- NOW!
YOU LEAVE KIYOKO ALONE!

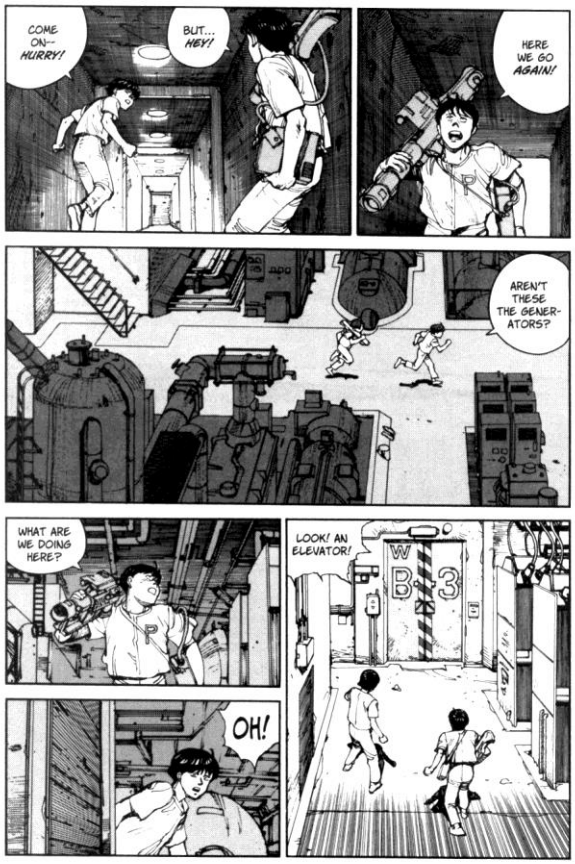
CRACK
MASARU!! TAKASHI!! STOP THIS AT ONCE!
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
?GASP!
YOU LITTLE BASTARDS!

BRAK
?!
BLOM
YAAH!
STAP
MASARU!
HMM...
CALM DOWN!
VOOF

!
KRR
YOU GOT SOME SERIOUS ATTITUDE... OLD MAN.
HNNG... RRGH!
BIG GUY LIKE YOU...
ALWAYS PUSHING PEOPLE AROUND...


PLAK
GAH...!!
THE GIRL...
SUMMON THE GIRL!


HFFF
HUFFF
HUFFF
HUH?
WHAT IS IT...?
THIS WAY...
WHA--?
IT'S A SHORT CUT.
OH, YEAH ...?


COME ON— HURRY!
BUT... HEY!
HERE WE GO AGAIN!
AREN'T THESE THE GENER-ATORS?
WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
OH!
LOOK! AN ELEVATOR!
B3

POUM
AAH..
EEH..
WHAT?
IS THAT THE
BEST YOU
GOT?!
AW, ISN'T
SHE CUTE? THE
LITTLE SLEEPING
BEAUTY.

DEFORMED FREAK!!
FRAAK
HUNH?
WH--WHAT IS THIS?!

OH, NOW I GET IT!
IT WAS YOU TWO, WASN'T IT?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I SEE...
...PROTECTING YOUR LITTLE PRINCESS.
SSS...
STOP IT! LEAVE THESE CHILDREN ALONE...
I...CAN'T PERMIT YOU TO CONTINUE!

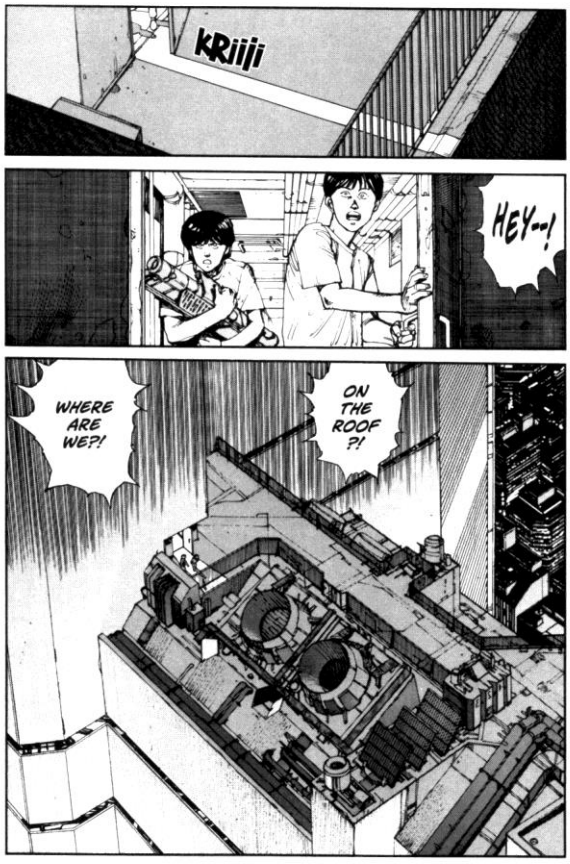
SO, OLD MAN... WHERE IS AKIRA?!
STOP! I'LL TELL YOU!
NO! DON'T!
BUT WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
HEAR ME OUT, COLONEL!
LET NUMBER 41 TRY TO CONTROL AKIRA!

OUR PROBLEMS WITH AKIRA HAVE HELD UP THIS PROJECT SINCE THE WAR! OF COURSE THERE'D BE A DELAY...
...WHILE WE STUDY NUMBER 41, BUT...
...WE CAN'T THROW AWAY OUR FIRST CHANCE IN THIRTY YEARS TO MASTER AKIRA!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THIS WAY! QUICKLY!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I DON'T KNOW HOW I KNOW! I JUST KNOW!

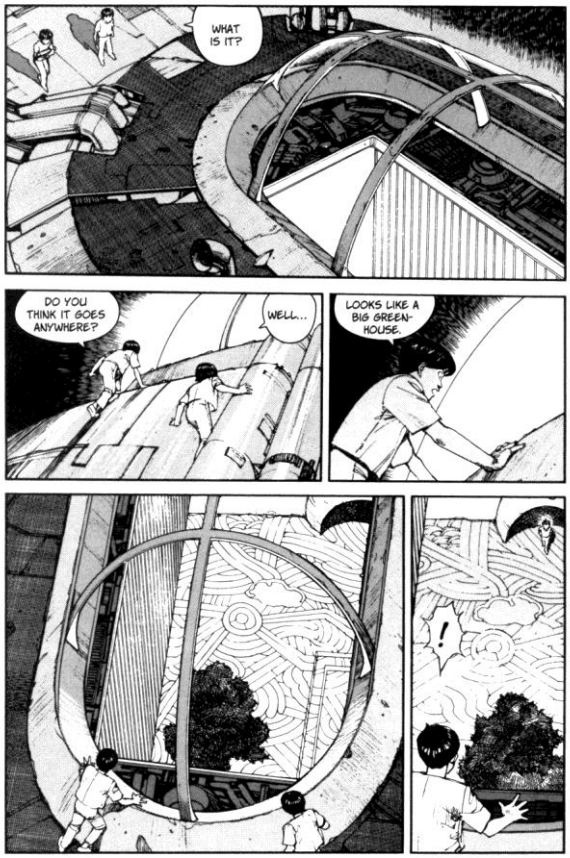
I SAID...
NO!!!
THE RISK IS TOO GREAT! WE CAN'T AWAKEAI AKIRA WHILE THERE'S THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT!
LET ME TRY! I'LL ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFETY FACTOR!
PLEASE, COLONEL!
BETTER HURRY IT UP...
TRUST ME!! THIS IS THE CULMINATION OF EVERYTHING I'VE WORKED AND STUDIED FOR!

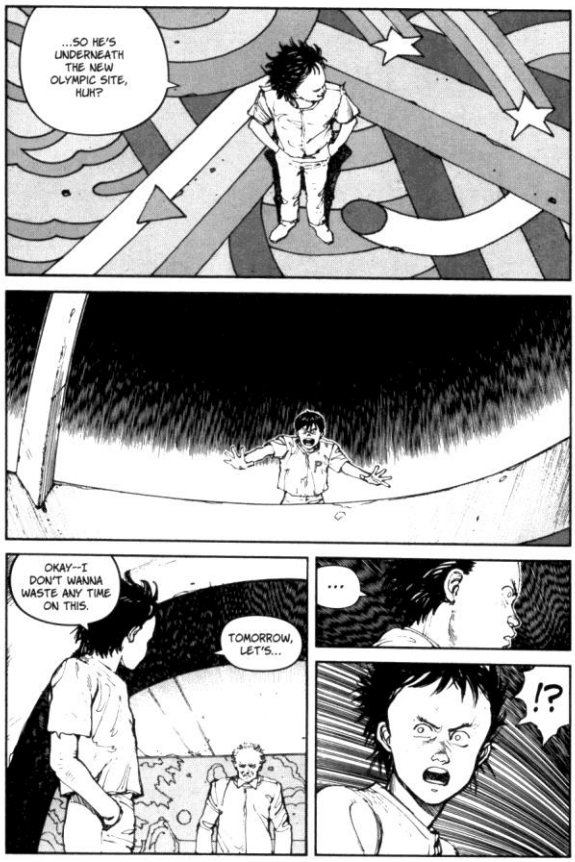
SEE? THE OLD FART'S WILLING TO TAKE THE BLAME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, SO WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
ANSWER ME!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT AKIRA CAN DO!
YOU CAN'T POSTPONE THIS THING FOREVER, COLONEL!
IT HAS TO HAPPEN SOME-TIME!
BUT NOT YET! I CAN'T RISK MILLIONS OF LIVES--
--JUST TO SATISFY YOUR "SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY" ...AND YOUR EGO!
OKAY. IF HE DON'T WANNA PLAY, WE'LL GO WITHOUT HIM.
NOW...
...WHERE IS AKIRA?

COLONEL ...?
...NO!
I SAID WE DON'T NEED YOU!
!
BLOK
NO... DON'T ...!
GAWA...!
I'M NOT STUPID, YOU KNOW. I DON'T PLAN TO TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH AKIRA.
I'M JUST LIKE YOU... INTERESTED IN EXPERIMENTS.
C-COLONEL ...?


KRiiii
HEY--!
WHERE ARE WE?!
ON THE ROOF ?!

WHADDAYA MEAN, LOOKS LIKE IT...?! WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DRAG OUR ASS UP HERE FOR?!
LOOKS LIKE IT...
BECAUSE ...
ANOTHER SHORTCUT ...?
I... THINK...
OH, MAN-- WE ARE WAYY UP HERE!
LOOK AT THAT!


WHAT IS IT?
DO YOU THINK IT GOES ANYWHERE?
WELL...
LOOKS LIKE A BIG GREEN-HOUSE.
!


...SO HE'S UNDERNEATH THE NEW OLYMPIC SITE, HUH?
OKAY--I DON'T WANNA WASTE ANY TIME ON THIS.
TOMORROW, LET'S...
...
!?

SKRASSH
AAH?!

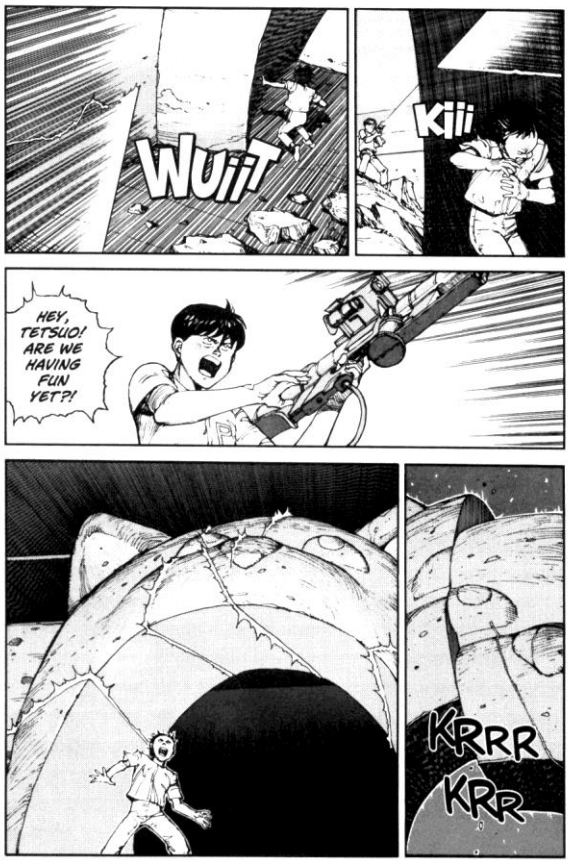
WAAAH!
KANEDA!
kSHiiF
SHAk
HUH?
BLiNk
EEYAAAHH!!!
FROOSH

FWHDD
!
...
TETSUO!!
K... KANE... DA?
DIE!!
ZZAP
!

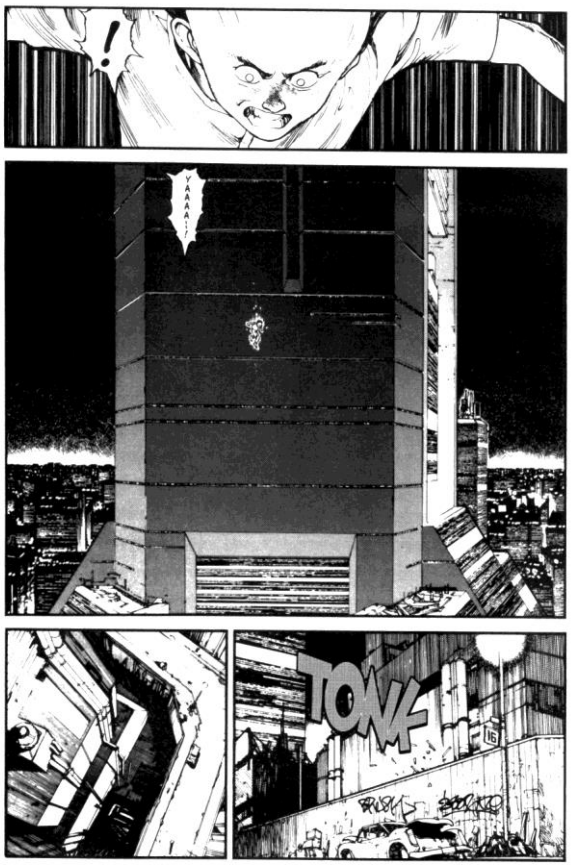
SHIT!
TSHIF
A LASER ...?!
WHA--?!
OWW...
TWOON
TAP TAP
GWIIZ
BAOF
KZIIP

NNG...
KRUSH
RRGAAH!!
ZSSP
WAA!
DID I NAIL HIM...?!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

KANEDA!
WHERE ARE YOU?! ARE YOU OKAY?!
ZIIIP
YAAH!
NOOO!!
ZWUIIK
...AHN...
AAGH!
WUIIZ


WUiiT
Kiii
HEY, TETSUO! ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?!
KRRR
KRR

CROMF
NUMBER 41!
...
DID YOU KILL HIM?!
TETSUO...


!
YAAAA!!
TONK

WHADAFUG?!
WAZZAT ?!
BRAK
SUMPIN' FELL DOWN!
KRINK
MAYBE DA SKY IS FALLIN'!!!
KRAK SKRSH
SO...THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE...
...TO TELEPORT.
HMM... HEH HEH...
HAA... HA HA HA HA!!!
H-HULLY SHIT... MEBBE IT'S AN ANGEL... OR A DEMON OR SUMPIN'?!

NUMBER 41!!!
KRANK
KRR
HMMM...
!
KA-
KANEDA...!
YEAH?
AAH?!
YOU GUYS!

...
IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT? YOU WERE GUIDING ME HERE!
UHN...
OH, CRAP! IT'S THAT SKINHEAD DUDE AGAIN!
GNNN...
HE'S BAD NEWS—WE GOTTA RUN! NOW!!
NOT YET...

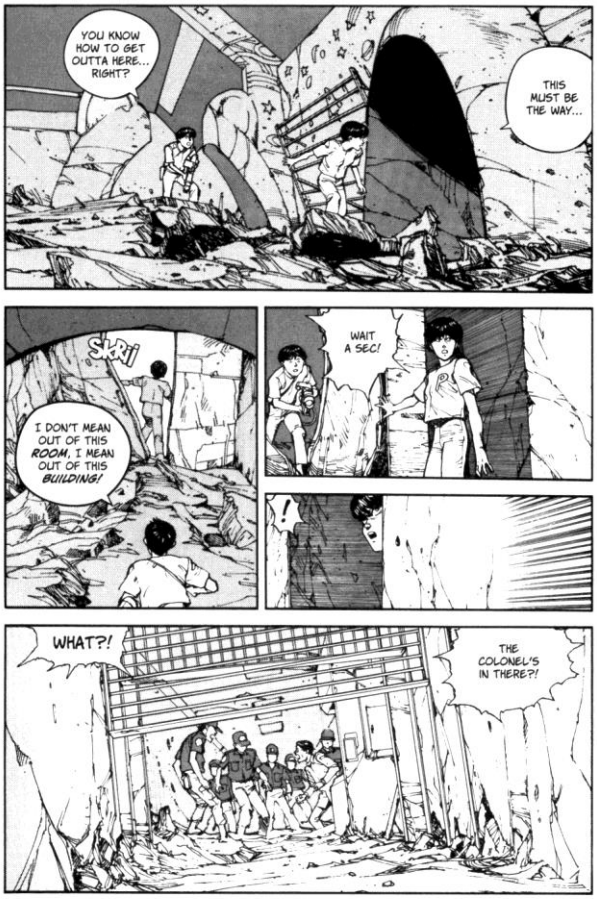
PLEASE...
...WON'T YOU AT LEAST TELL ME...
WHAT IS AKIRA ...?!
AKIRA IS ONE OF US...
HEY! HE'S WAKING UP! LET'S GO GO GO!!
NUMBER 28 OF OUR SERIES...

RRR...
OH, SHIT!
WHERE IS AKIRA NOW?
BURIED... UNDER THE OLYMPIC SITE.
UNDER--?!?
Y-YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
OH, MAN--I TOLD YA! HE'S AWAKE!

GUARDS! GUARDS! GET IN HERE!
SHIT! NOW WE'RE SCREWED!
C'MON, TETSUO!
GET YOUR COWARDLY ASS OUT HERE AND EAT SOME LASER!!
HE...IS NO LONGER HERE.
WHA--?!
TETSUO... HAS GONE TO SEE...AKIRA.
YOU MUST HURRY...

US?
YOU TOLD HIM!
STOP HIM... STOP TETSUO.
I'M SORRY, COLONEL! I HAD NO CHOICE! NUMBER 41--TETSUO--WENT OUT OF CONTROL WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS. I HAD TO TELL HIM!
BUT I ONLY TOLD HIM WHERE AKIRA IS. I DIDN'T THINK...
...HE HAD THE POWER TO REACH HIM.
ONLY WHERE AKIRA IS?
ONLY ...?
HEY!
YOU TELLING ME TETSUO ISN'T UNDER THIS CRAP?

KANEDA!
LET'S GO!
I FORBID IT!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST DROP DEAD, YOU UGLY BALD SKINHEAD SHAVER CUEBALL-HEADED GOON!
KROP
BITE ME!
I DIDN'T THINK NUMBER 41...


YOU KNOW HOW TO GET OUTTA HERE... RIGHT?
THIS MUST BE THE WAY...
SWK!
I DON'T MEAN OUT OF THIS ROOM, I MEAN OUT OF THIS BUILDING!
WAIT A SEC!
!
WHAT?!
THE COLONEL'S IN THERE?!

SHRIEK!
WHAT THE HELL--?!
COME QUICK! THE COLONEL... HE'S BEEN WOUNDED--IN THE HEAD!
WHAT ?!
IT'S BAD! YOU GOTTA HELP HIM QUICK!
I THINK HE'S GONNA BLEED TO DEATH!
COLONEL !!
CALL THE MEDICS!
MOVE IT!
IT LOOKS LIKE A WAR IN THERE!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
ON THE DOUBLE!
HOLD IT, YOU TWO!!

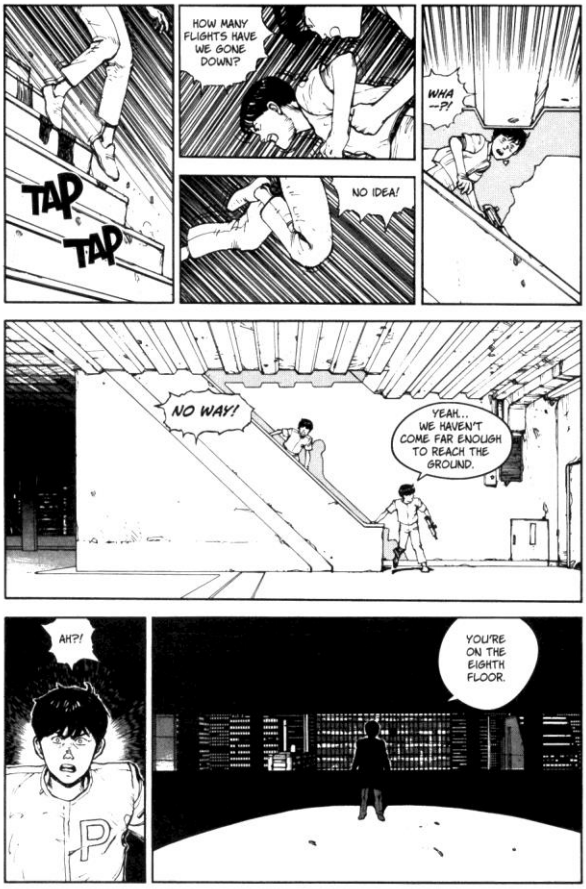
THOSE ARE PRISONERS' UNIFORMS!
JUST WHERE DID YOU THINK YOU WERE GOING...?
WE... UH... WE'RE...
AH, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, ASSHOLE!
GZAAP
...!
FSSHT
SRAAK
AAUGH!!
VRAK

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
BIP
HUFF
HUFF
HOW WE DOIN'?
15
SO FAR, SO GOOD...
VOOOUUii ii

YAAIEE!!
HEY! WHAT AM I RUNNING FOR?
CRIIIISH
GZWIII
AUGH!
OWW!! YA BURNED ME!
OH, CRAP-- DEAD BATTERY?!
CHTOK
WELL, AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO LUG THAT THING AROUND ANYMORE!
BUT... SHIT!

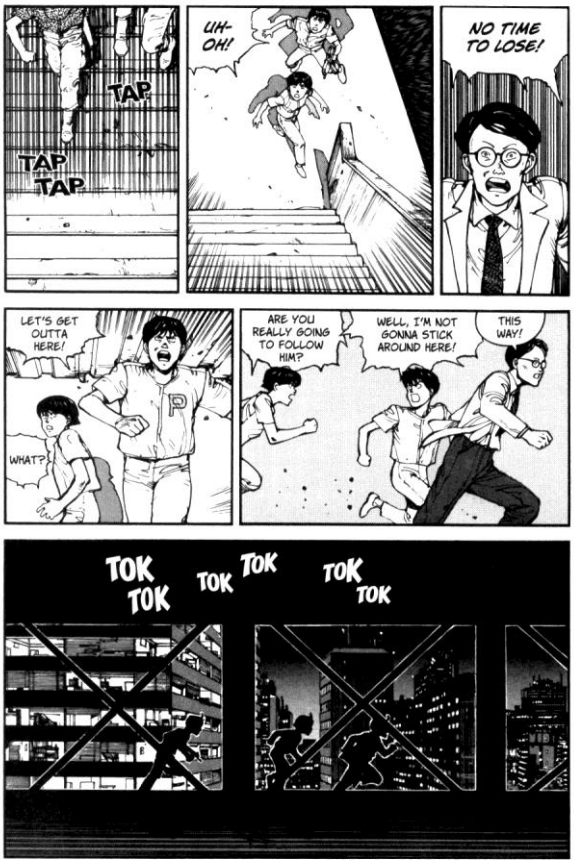
GOING DOWN!
WHOA! WO-WO-WO-WO-WO-WO-WO-WO!
KANEDA!
BONK
!
TAKA TAKATA
WAAHH!
DOM
OOOH!
OHH!
DOOM

OWWW! MY BUTT!
HURRY!
!
STAP
CRIIC
CRIIC
SLIIIZ
WHA...!
POUM
COME TO POPPA!
BROOM
BETTER HIDE THOSE UGLY FACES!
TAKATA
TAKA
YAIEE!

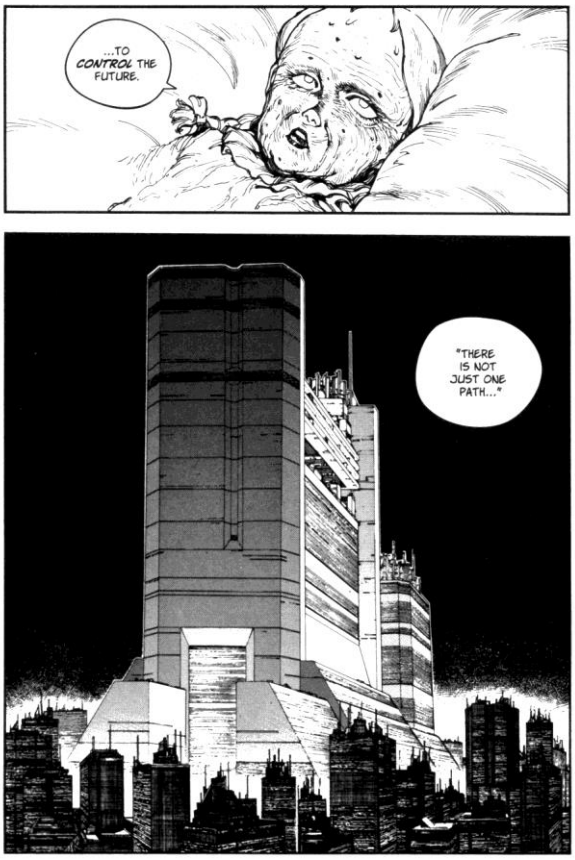

TAP
TAP
HOW MANY FLIGHTS HAVE WE GONE DOWN?
NO IDEA!
WHA—?!
NO WAY!
YEAH... WE HAVEN'T COME FAR ENOUGH TO REACH THE GROUND.
AH?!
YOU'RE ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR.

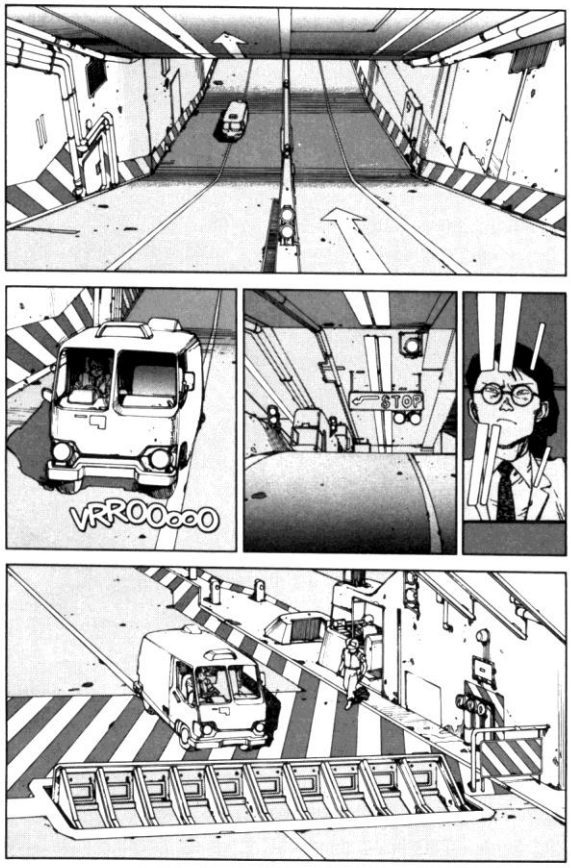
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
STOP! DON'T SHOOT! WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THE SAME SIDE?
I CAN HELP YOU GET OUT OF HERE!
WE ARE. REALLY.
I WOULDN'T LIE.

...
A FRIEND OF MINE TOLD ME ABOUT IT. HE USED TO WORK WITH YOU.
YOU'RE PART OF THE *RESISTANCE*, AREN'T YOU?
REMEMBER WHEN TAKASHI--NUMBER 26--MADE IT OUT OF HERE? THAT WAS MY FRIEND'S DOING!
I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT.
WHERE'S THIS FRIEND OF YOURS NOW?
GONE... CAPTURED.
HE...AND ALL HIS FILES...VANISHED LIKE THEY NEVER EVEN EXISTED.
HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND.

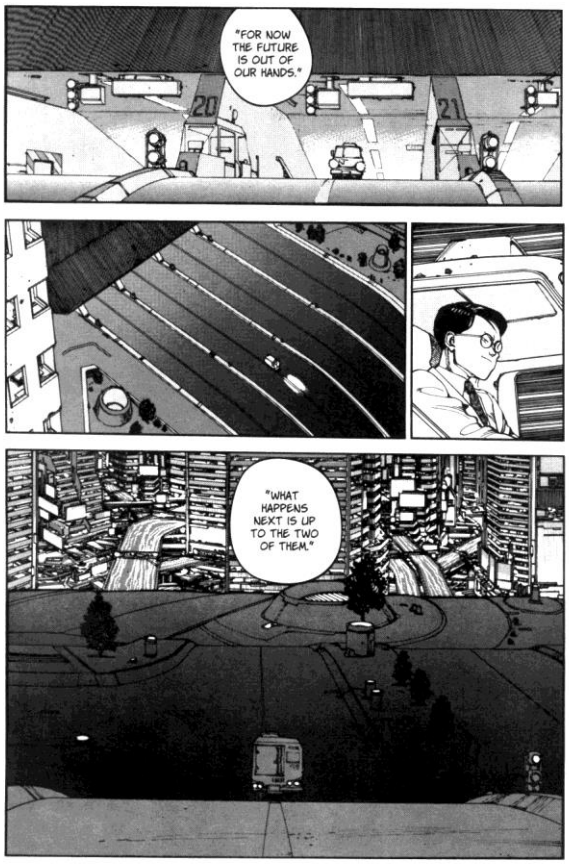

TAP
TAP
TAP
UH-OH!
NO TIME TO LOSE!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
WHAT?
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO FOLLOW HIM?
WELL, I'M NOT GONNA STICK AROUND HERE!
THIS WAY!
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK

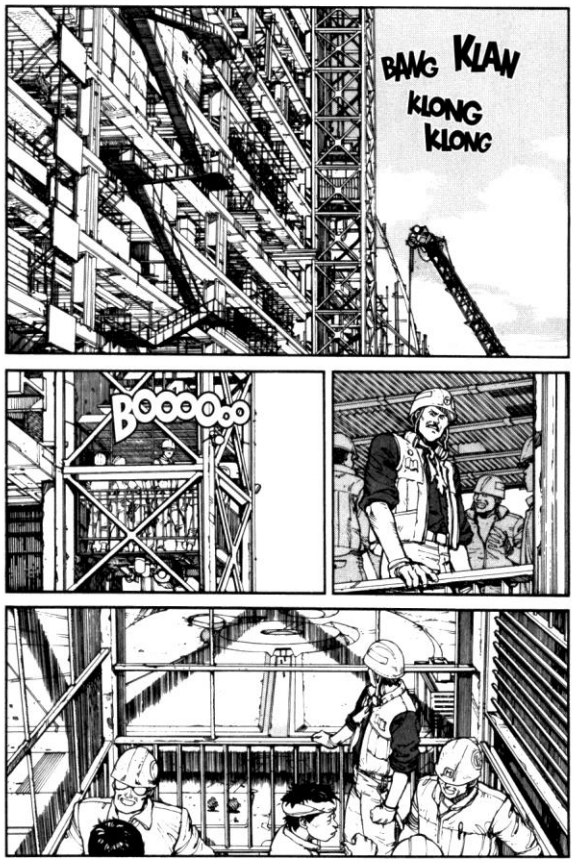
THE MAIN PANEL IS FRIED--EVERY BREAKER IS SHORTED OUT!
CLIMATE CONTROL AS WELL?
YEAH... TOTAL MELT-DOWN.
WHAT'S WITH THE EMERGENCY POWER?
IT'S ALREADY ON BUT WE GOTTA REROUTE IT!
CAN YOU BYPASS THAT BUS...?
WE MUST TRY...

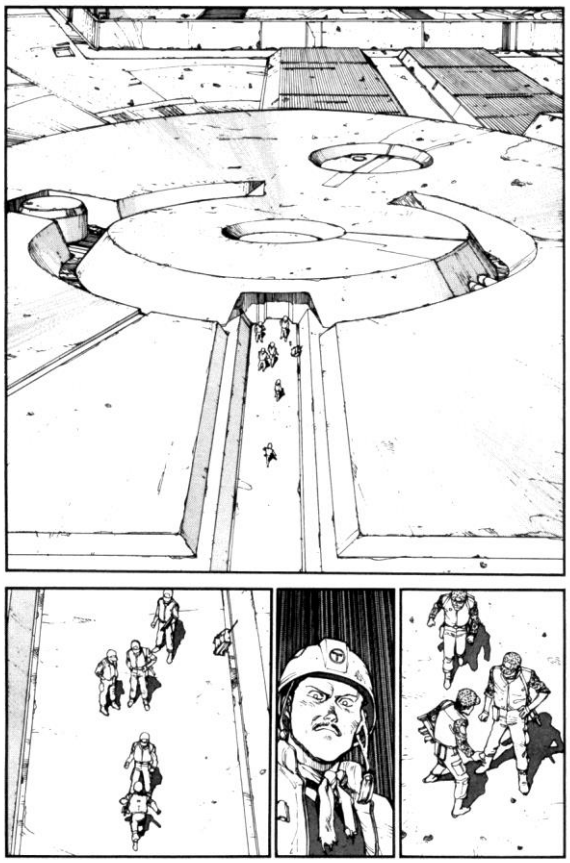

...TO CONTROL THE FUTURE.
"THERE IS NOT JUST ONE PATH..."


VRROOOOO
STOP

OPEN THE BACK SO I CAN TAKE A LOOK.
BRAK
OKAY.
GROOOM


"FOR NOW THE FUTURE IS OUT OF OUR HANDS."
20
21
"WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO THE TWO OF THEM."


BANG KLAN
KLONG
KLONG
BOOOOOO



SHAK
MAN, I'M STARVING!
BROO
SOME-THING'S UP.
ARE YOU SURE?

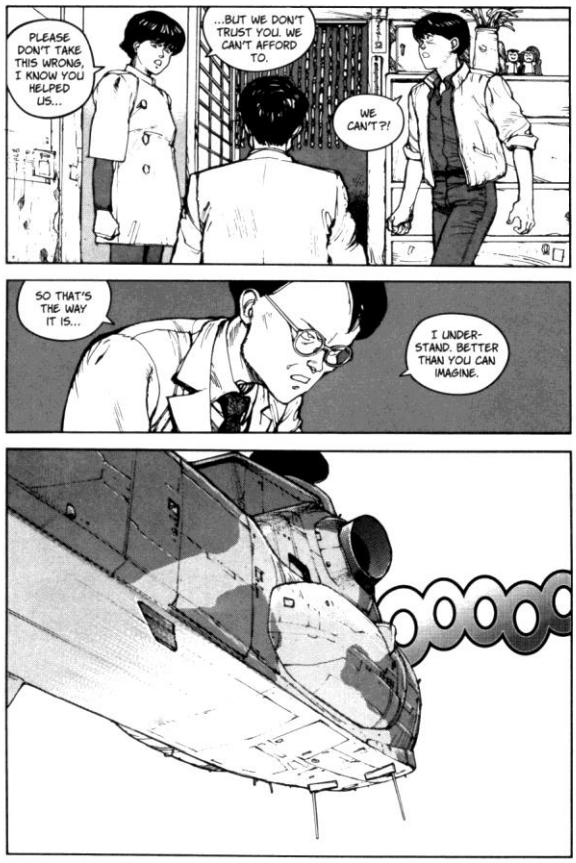
A LOT OF MILITARY ACTIVITY ALL MORNING, AND ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO THEY INCREASED THE GUARD AT THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK... SHOULD WE MAKE OUR MOVE?
TIME'S RUN OUT. LET'S DO IT.
HE ABOUT SHIT WHEN I TOLD HIM.
HEH, HEH...
TONIGHT?
HEY, IF HER OLD MAN FINDS OUT...
LOOK AT THIS CRAP. WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FOR FREE?
BETTER CRAP.
NO. THE SOONER, THE BETTER.
LET'S AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL DARK.
WE CAN'T GIVE THEM TIME TO GET ORGANIZED. WE HAVE TO STRIKE NOW.

NOT YET...
PITCH
HEY!!
NO FAIR, YOU CHEATER! IT'S MY TURN!
HE ALWAYS DOES THAT.
HEY! I WANNA PLAY, TOO!
GOOP
SPURT
SMAK

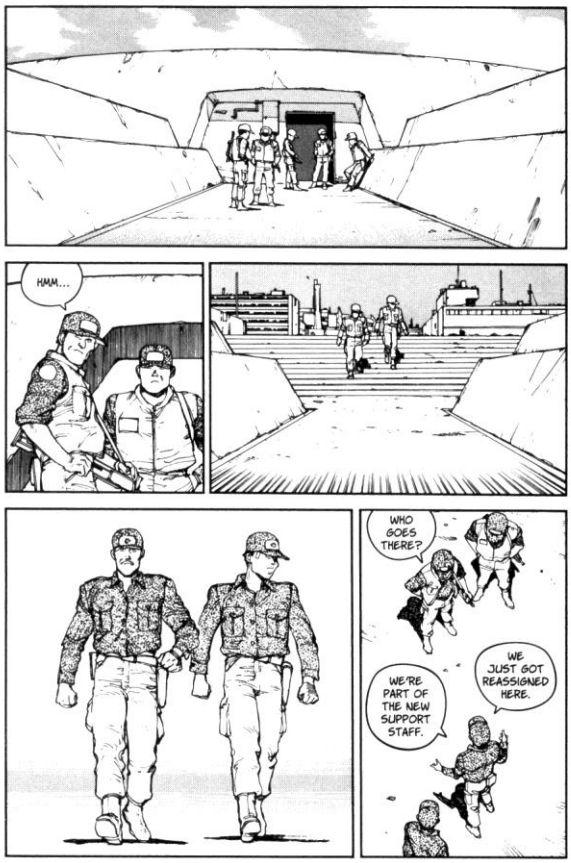
CHOMP
CHOMP
PWARF
THIS STUFF AIN'T HALF BAD...
UH...
YOU WANT ANY? THERE'S STILL SOME ARTIFICIAL FISH LEFT.
WHAT...? OH, NO THANKS.
:CHOMP: :SLURP:
HASN'T KE! BEEN GONE AN AW-FULLY LONG TIME...?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, KEI. WHY DO YOU INSIST ON STAYING WITH THE TWO OF THEM?
KANEDA IS OKAY, AUNTIE CHIYOKO.
AS FOR THE GUY WITH THE GLASSES... I DON'T KNOW.
MMM.
THE PLAN TO FREE NUMBER 26 WAS RYUSAKU'S OPERATION...AND THIS MAN CLAIMS HE WAS IN ON THAT.
SO IF RYU COULD MEET HIM, WE'D FIND OUT FOR SURE.
IF I LEAVE HIM BEHIND AND HE TURNS OUT TO BE FAKING IT... YOU DON'T NEED THE HASSLE.
AND IF HE IS A PLANT...
...I BROUGHT HIM HERE...
...SO I'LL BE THE ONE WHO TAKES CARE OF IT.

HERE SHE COMES!
WHAT A PIG! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STILL EATING!
WE HAVE TO GO.
MMF
UH... WHERE?
TO THE OLD CITY. THE CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR THE NEXT OLYMPICS.
IS THAT WHERE TETSUO IS?!
PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU!
BESIDES, I...I WANT TO HELP YOU. I KNOW IT'S WHAT MY FRIEND WOULD HAVE WANTED!
OKAY, YOU CAN COME, BUT...
THEY'LL KILL ME IF I GO BACK NOW!


PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS WRONG, I KNOW YOU HELPED US...
...BUT WE DON'T TRUST YOU. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO.
WE CAN'T?!
SO THAT'S THE WAY IT IS...
I UNDER-STAND. BETTER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.

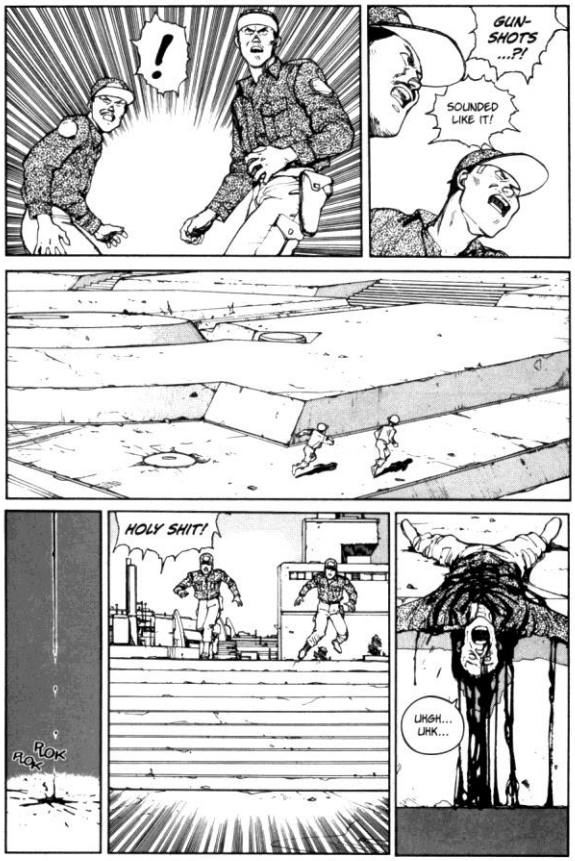
VVVRROOooO

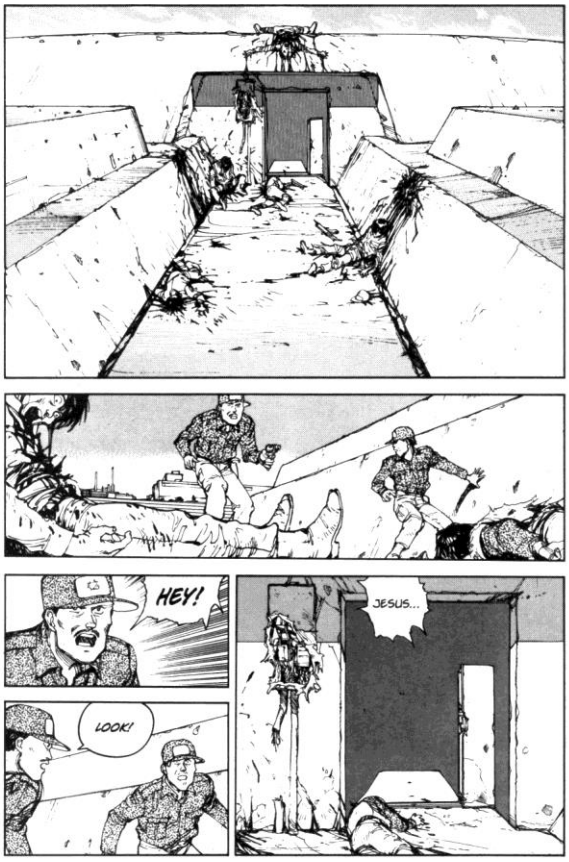

HMM...
WHO GOES THERE?
WE JUST GOT REASSIGNED HERE.
WE'RE PART OF THE NEW SUPPORT STAFF.

YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
NOPE.
SO WHAT ARE OUR ORDERS, SIR?
WE'RE CURRENTLY AT ALERT LEVEL 5, SO SOMEONE THINKS IT'S SERIOUS.
MAYBE IT'S A COUP D'ÉTAT... HEH HEH!
WELL... WHY DON'T YOU JUST CHECK THE GENERAL AREA AND SEE IF YOU FIND ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
WELL...? ARE WE GOING TO OR NOT?
JUST WAIT FOR NOW.
LET'S MAKE ONE ROUND BEFORE WE HIT THEM. IT'LL GIVE US A CHANCE TO CHECK OUT THE AREA.
YEAH...WE CAN MAP OUT OUR ESCAPE ROUTE, ANYWAY.
SAY...DID EITHER OF THOSE GUYS LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?
NO. AND NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THEY NEVER GAVE US THEIR NAMES OR RANKS.
HEY...?!
?!

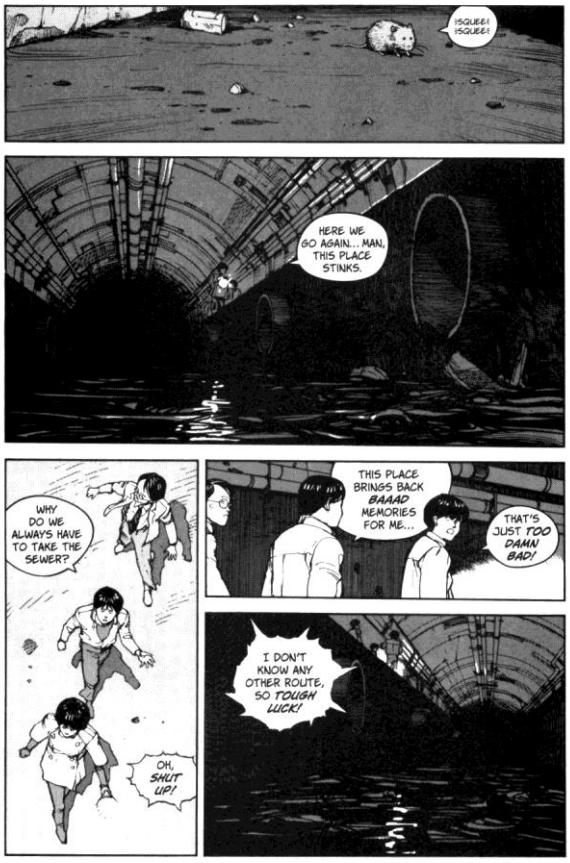
WHO GOES THERE?
AH, IT'S JUST SOME KID.

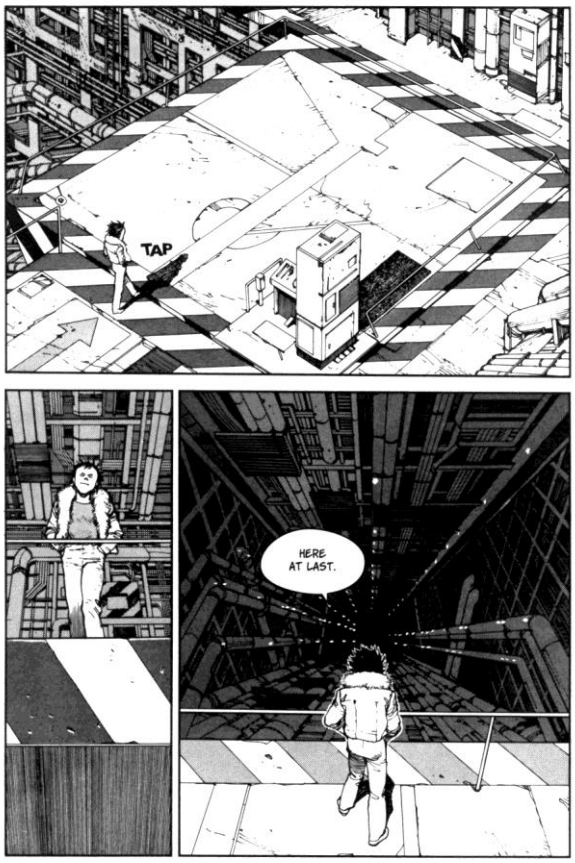
VOOOOOM

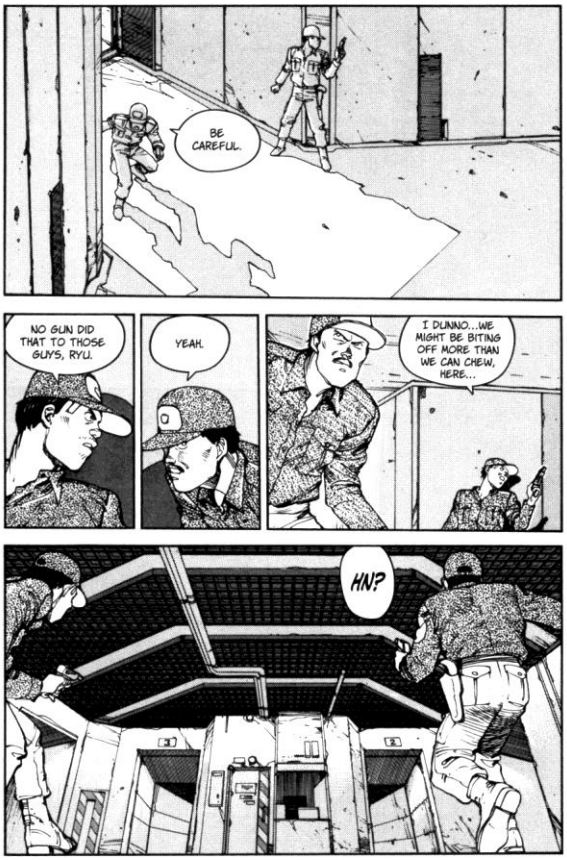

!
GUN-SHOTS ...?!
SOUNDED LIKE IT!
HOLY SHIT!
FLOK
FLOK
UHGH... UHK...


HEY!
LOOK!
JESUS...

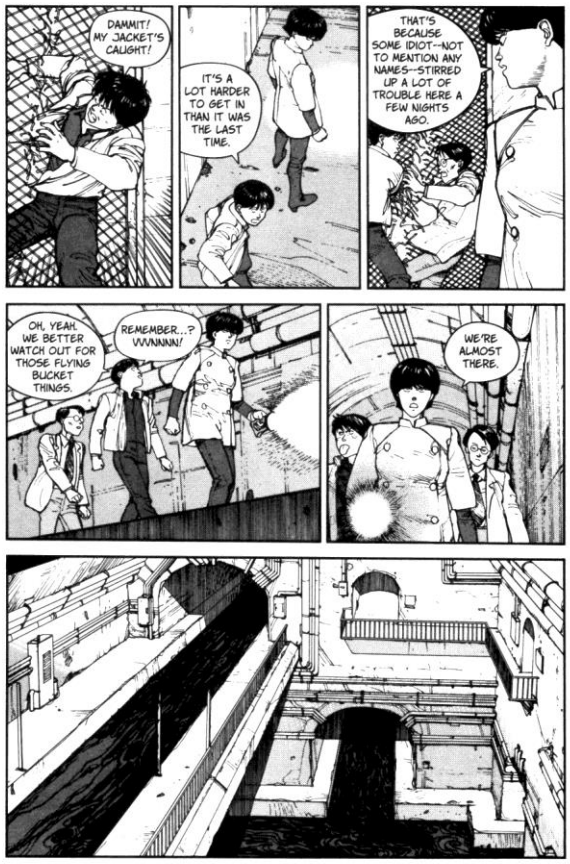
KLANK
STRAP
HURRY! WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE!


ISQUEE! ISQUEE!
HERE WE GO AGAIN... MAN, THIS PLACE STINKS.
WHY DO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO TAKE THE SEWER?
OH, SHUT UP!
THIS PLACE BRINGS BACK BAAAD MEMORIES FOR ME...
THAT'S JUST TOO DAMN BAD!
I DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER ROUTE, SO TOUGH LUCK!


TAP
HERE.
AT LAST.


BE CAREFUL.
NO GUN DID THAT TO THOSE GUYS, RYU.
YEAH.
I DUNNO...WE MIGHT BE BITING OFF MORE THAN WE CAN CHEW, HERE...
HN?

WHICH WAY...?
LOOK-- FOOTPRINTS IN THE DUST!
LOOKS LIKE THE NEWEST ONES GO OFF THIS WAY!
KRIINK
KRIINK


DAMMIT! MY JACKET'S CAUGHT!
IT'S A LOT HARDER TO GET IN THAN IT WAS THE LAST TIME.
THAT'S BECAUSE SOME IDIOT--NOT TO MENTION ANY NAMES--STIRRED UP A LOT OF TROUBLE HERE A FEW NIGHTS AGO.
OH, YEAH. WE BETTER WATCH OUT FOR THOSE FLYING BUCKET THINGS.
REMEMBER...? VVVVAAAAA!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

WHAT'SA MATTER?
I'M NOT SURE. SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT.
WATCH YOUR-SELVES.
!
WHAT IS IT?
IT LOOKS LIKE...
DZzlllll

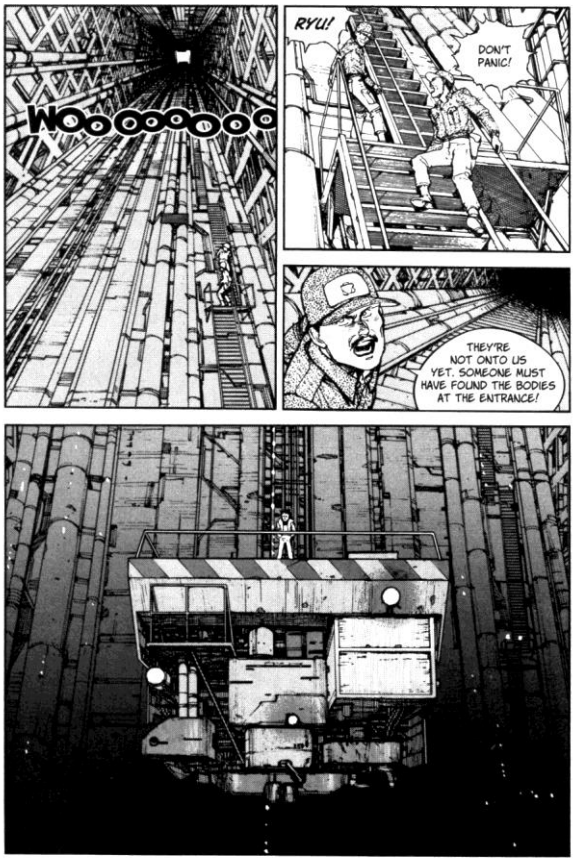
ELECTRIFIED WIRE?
GUESS THEY GOT A SEWER COW PROBLEM.
SO, WE EITHER TOUCH IT AND GET KILLED OR CUT IT AND SET OFF AN ALARM.
QUITE THE "SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT," HUH?
HOLD IT.

P
CAN YOU HEAR IT?
STOMP
IT CAME FROM DOWN THERE!
GWuuu

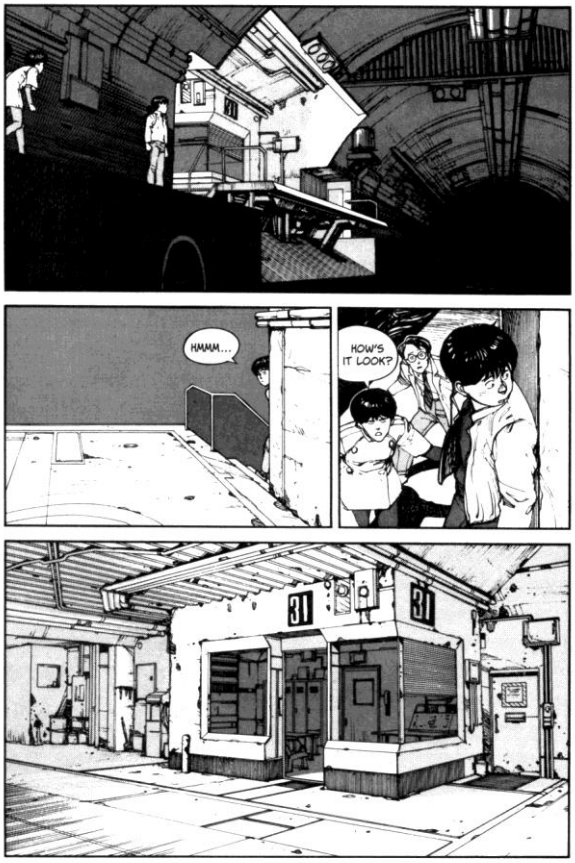
...
THE BODIES CAN WAIT! FOLLOW ME!
ON THE DOUBLE!

THE ELEVATOR'S ON IT'S WAY DOWN ALREADY, COLONEL!
DOCTOR!
CHECK THE COOLING SYSTEM FOR AKIRA'S CHAMBER AT ONCE!
TCHAK
I WANT THIS CORRIDOR SEALED TIGHT!
YESSIR!
AND SEE THAT THE AIR SQUADRON IS STANDING BY!
MOVE, YOU IDIOT!

SHiii
JUST A LITTLE MORE. HOLD REAL STILL...
WAAOO
SHIT!
WOOOOOO
THE ALARM!
OOOOOO
RYU ...?
WOOOOOOOO


WOOOOOOOO
RYU!
DON'T PANIC!
THEY'RE NOT ONTO US YET. SOMEONE MUST HAVE FOUND THE BODIES AT THE ENTRANCE!

WELL...?
SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, SIR, NOTHING'S WRONG WITH THE SYSTEM. AKIRA IS FINE.
IT COULDN'T HURT TO GO DOWNSTAIRS AND CHECK IN PERSON.
HOW SOON TILL THE ELEVATOR REACHES BOTTOM?
SIR!
IT JUST PASSED LEVEL BF35, WHICH GIVES HIM AN E.T.A. OF FIFTEEN MINUTES FROM NOW.
VOOF
WHERE THE HELL IS THAT GARRISON?!


HMMM...
HOW'S IT LOOK?
31
31

TAP
TAP
TAP
TSHIF
'SOKAY! IT'S DESERTED.
THEY MUST HAVE CLEARED OUT WHEN THEY HEARD THE SIREN.

NOTHING HERE. LET'S MOVE ON.
LIEUTENANT, DO YOU READ ME? COME IN PLEASE!
HUH?
YOU AND YOUR MEN ARE TO FOLLOW THE LIFT INTO THE LOWER LEVELS. THERE IS ONE PASSENGER ABOARD, A TEENAGE BOY.
AT ALL COSTS, YOU MUST STOP HIM FROM REACHING THE LOWEST CHAMBER.
I REPEAT, DO NOT LET THE BOY GET THROUGH! LETHAL FORCE IS AUTHORIZED!
BOY...?! TETSUO!!

GNUUuu
45
!
DONG
AAUGH!!
KABABA

GWIIIIZ
TSHUUF
YAAH!
TSHAF
BASTARDS!

GAWIII
DO IT!!
DIE!
!
FLAAM

HE GOT THE LIEUTENANT!
COME AND GET SWATTED, FLIES!
FWiiiSH
RRNGG
AHH!!

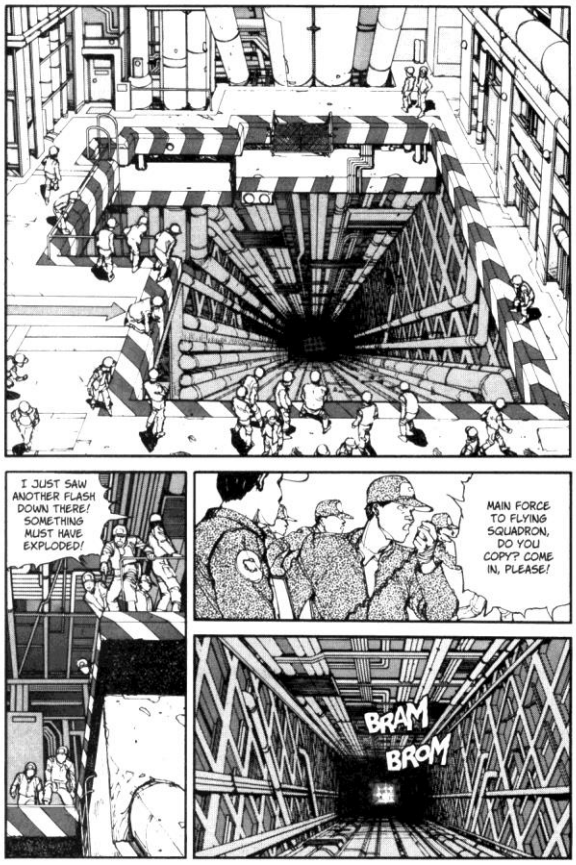
OF COURSE I READ THE RESULTS OF HIS APTITUDE TESTS, BUT I DON'T SEE WHAT...
THEN YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT HE'S BEYOND OUR CONTROL!
EH...?
WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST?
.....
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
THERE...THERE'S BEEN AN INCREASE IN TEMPERATURE IN THE CENTRAL CHAMBER.
WHAT?!
IT'S UP TO 0.0005° KELVIN! VACUUM READINGS FOR THE DEWAR FLASK ARE NORMAL.
WHAT ABOUT THE SECOND CHAMBER? AND THE THIRD...?
THERE'S BEEN NO CHANGE... SO FAR.

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
LOOK!
NO, IT ISN'T.
DEAD END!
19
NS
AN INTER-SECTION...
I THINK WE'VE FOUND THE MAIN TUNNEL.

THIS IS SPECTACULAR.
WHICH WAY DO WE GO?
HUNH?
ZIIIW
DO YOU HEAR THAT?
IT SOUNDS LIKE...
FLYING BUCKETS. TOLD YOU SO.
ZIIIIIIW

GWIIIZ
HERE THEY COME.
!
NOTHING PERSONAL. JUST DON'T TRY ANYTHING.
WIIIZGWII
WHOA, CHECK IT OUT... ONE OF THOSE WAS A "SIX-PIECE BUCKET."
THE PARTY MUST BE OFF THAT WAY.

HEY, NOBODY HOLDS A PARTY WITHOUT INVITING ME!!
!
WIIIIZ
KANEDA, WAIT!
HMM?
WIIISH
GET BACK IN HERE NOW!! ARE YOU CRAZY?!
DAMN IT, KANEDA!!
SHIIIIIIZ


I JUST SAW ANOTHER FLASH DOWN THERE! SOMETHING MUST HAVE EXPLODED!
MAIN FORCE TO FLYING SQUADRON, DO YOU COPY? COME IN, PLEASE!
BRAM
BROM

YOU DON'T KNOW?
I'M TELLING YOU, COLONEL, ONLY THE CENTRAL CHAMBER HAS BEEN AFFECTED. THE DEWAR FLASKS ARE STILL FUNCTIONING CORRECTLY.
YOU MEAN THERE'S BEEN NO TEMPERATURE INCREASE AT ALL IN THE SECOND AND THIRD CHAMBERS?
TSK TSK
YES, SIR.
Will
AT THIS RATE, THE CENTRAL CHAMBER WILL SHORTLY BE AT CRITICAL.
BiP
05
BiP
00095
ONCE THE THERMAL MONITOR COMPLETES THIS CYCLE, WE'LL RUN A COMPLETE CHECK TO LEARN WHERE THE MALFUNCTION IN THE COOLING LIES.

BROMF
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
097
BIP
WARNING
THIS CAN'T BE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DOCTOR?
THERE IS NO MALFUNCTION! THE COOLING SYSTEM FOR THE CENTRAL CHAMBER IS FUNCTIONING PERFECTLY!
WHAT?!

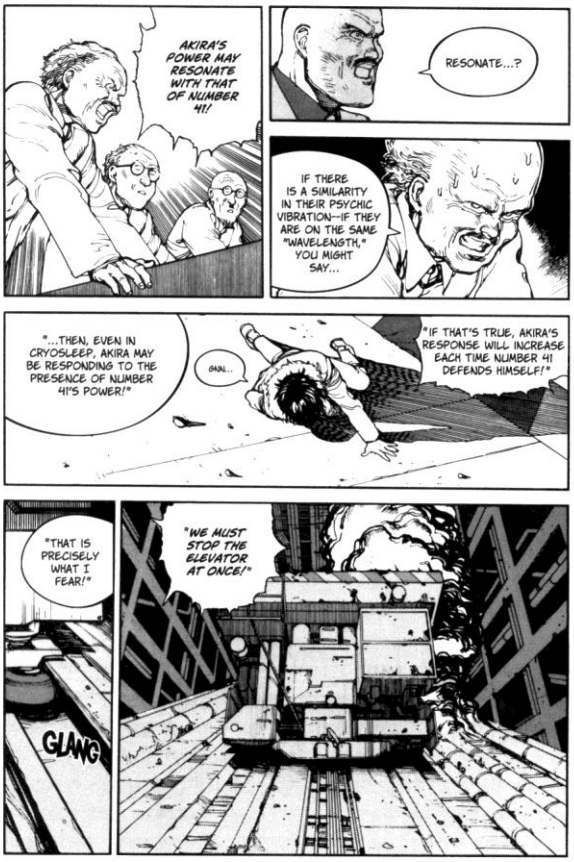
TSHIF
HUH?
BRAK
SLIIIZ
BRAAAOO

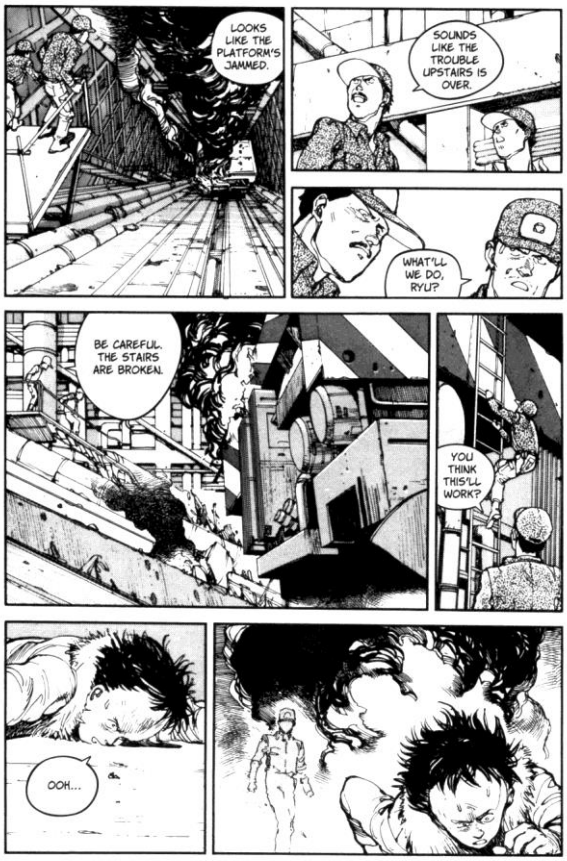
SLAP
NOW!
EH...?!
NO!
SMAK
SQRAAK
TCHOK
HEY-EY-EY!!
HOW DO YOU CONTROL THIS THING?!
BOOOOOO

FWiiiSH
AAAH!
WHOA!
Ziip
DOOOM

TAKA TAKATA
YAHAA!
BAM
BAM
FLAAAK
ARGHH!
HUH...?
HA HA HA!
BAO

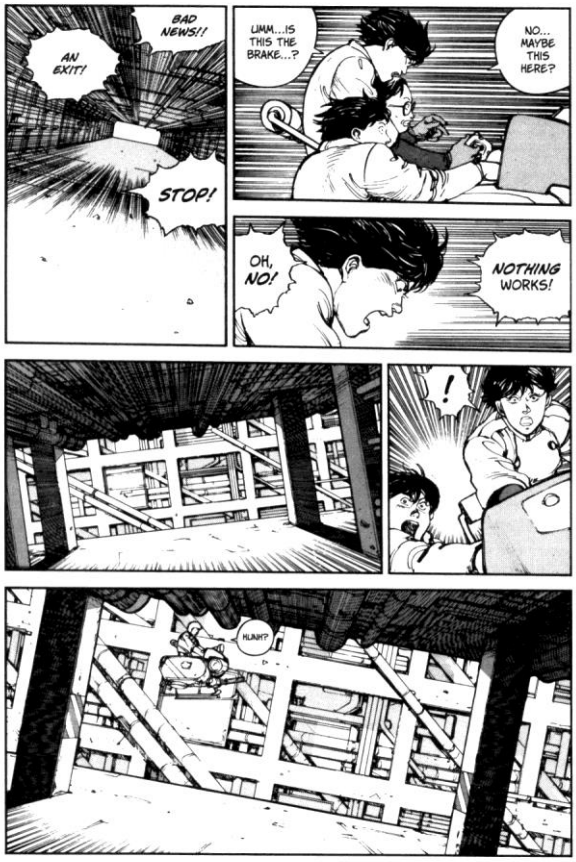
KRAM
AAAH--!
COULD...
COULD IT BE...?

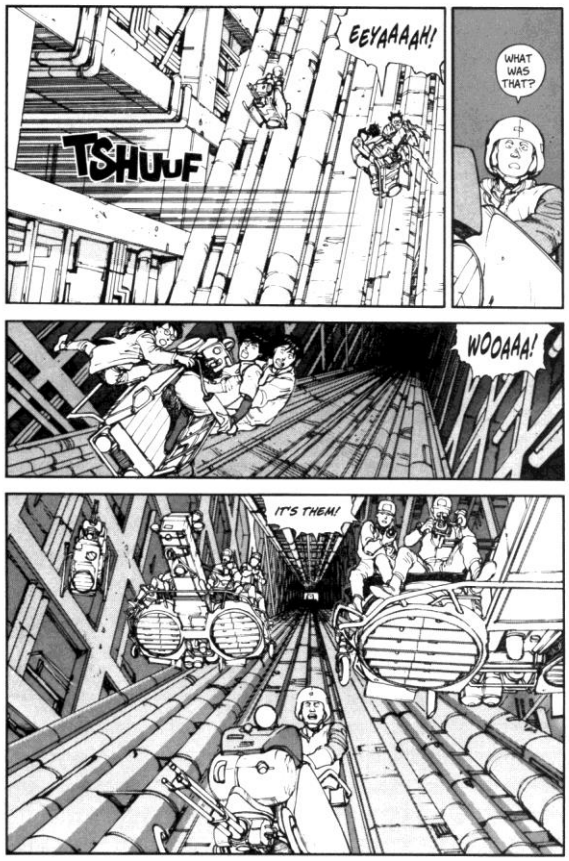

AKIRA'S POWER MAY RESONATE WITH THAT OF NUMBER 41!
RESONATE...?
IF THERE IS A SIMILARITY IN THEIR PSYCHIC VIBRATION--IF THEY ARE ON THE SAME "WAVELENGTH," YOU MIGHT SAY...
"...THEN, EVEN IN CRYOSLEEP, AKIRA MAY BE RESPONDING TO THE PRESENCE OF NUMBER 41'S POWER!"
GAHL...
"IF THAT'S TRUE, AKIRA'S RESPONSE WILL INCREASE EACH TIME NUMBER 41 DEFENDS HIMSELF!"
"THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I FEAR!"
GLANG
"WE MUST STOP THE ELEVATOR AT ONCE!"


LOOKS LIKE THE PLATFORM'S JAMMED.
SOUNDS LIKE THE TROUBLE UPSTAIRS IS OVER.
WHAT'LL WE DO, RYU?
BE CAREFUL. THE STAIRS ARE BROKEN.
YOU THINK THIS'LL WORK?
OOH...

IT'S A KID!
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HURT ANYWHERE. CAN YOU GET UP?
WHAT A JOKE... I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS SHIT.
YOU MEAN, YOU WERE ON THE ELEVATOR?
WOOIIII
YOU HEARD THE ORDER! HOLD YOUR FIRE!
DON'T DO ANYTHING TO GET NUMBER 41 UPSET!

KRAAA
MORE...!
HANG OFF MORE, KANEDA!
WHOOA!
KARASH
IT'S NOT ME, IT'S HIM!!
I'M OFF AS FAR AS I CAN GO!
KANEDAAA! HANG OFF FARTHER OR WE'RE GONNA CRASH!
BUT MY HANDS ARE KILLING ME!
SRAAK
GZWIII
LOOK!


BAD NEWS!!
AN EXIT!
STOP!
UMM...IS THIS THE BRAKE...?
NO... MAYBE THIS HERE?
OH, NO!
NOTHING WORKS!
!
HUAH?


EEYAAAAH!
TSHUUF
WHAT WAS THAT?
WOOAAA!
IT'S THEM!

MOVE IT!
THAT LOOKS LIKE...
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
WIIIIZ
THE...THE COLONEL...
OH, SHIT!

WHAT THE ...?
HEY, RYU, SOMEONE'S COMING!
DZziiiii
DAMN IT!
EEEK!
MOVE IT!

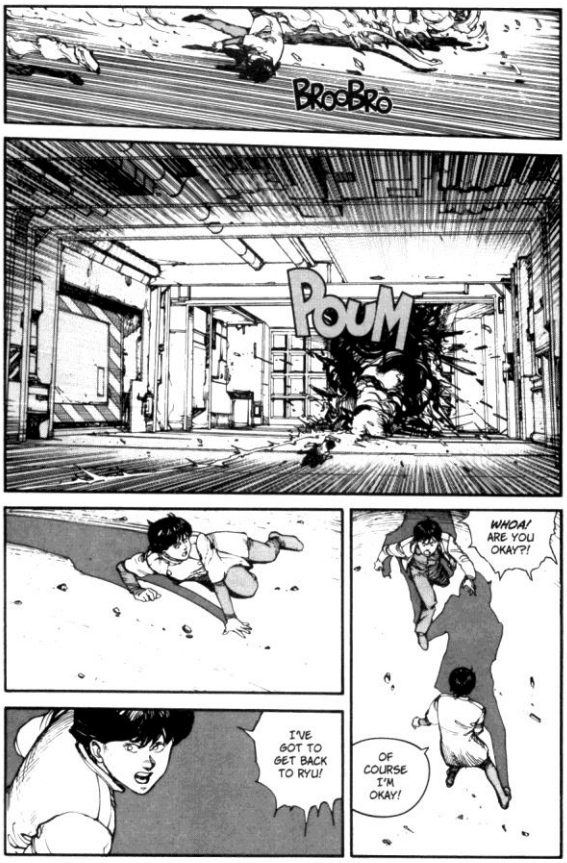
ZOOM
:GASP:
OH!
KEI...?
THAT WAS...
RYU!
KEI!

TURN THIS THING AROUND!
ARE YOU CRAZY? I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO STOP IT!
KANEDA...?! WHAT WOULD HE BE DOING HERE?
HUNH?
RYU!
!

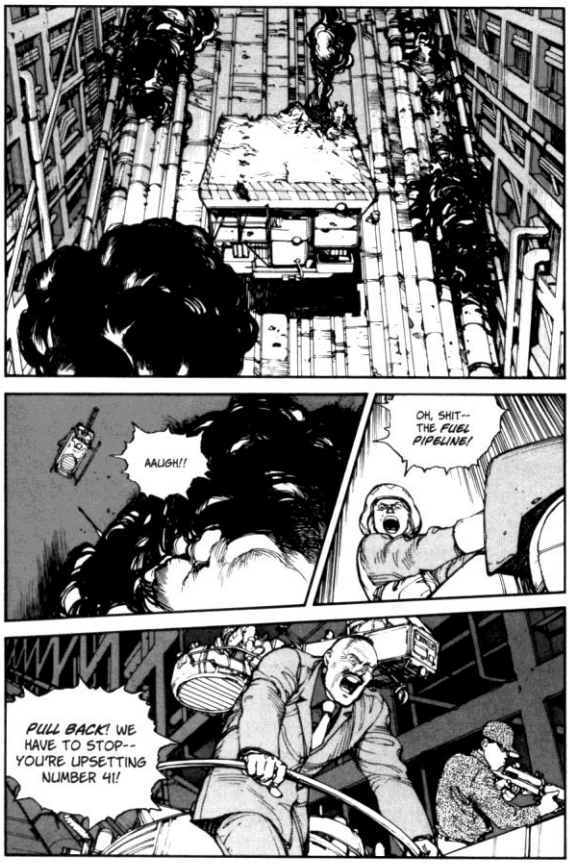
NUMBER 41, YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!
SCREW THAT.
Pshhh
W-WAIT--!
BLOM
EYAGH!
ZGONG

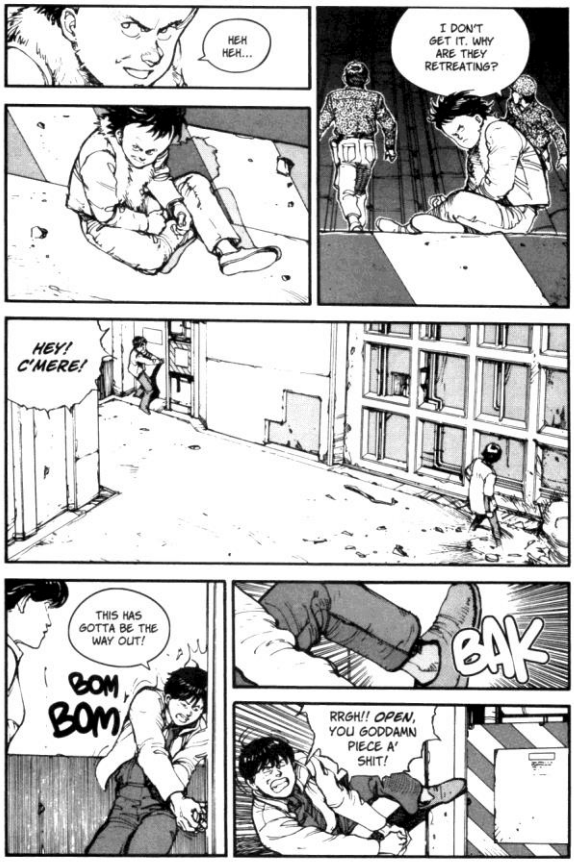
AAA!!
AAAA!!
ALIGHH! WE'RE GONNA CRASH!
EEEK! W-WAIT--
TURN!
THERE! THERE!!
WOOAAA!
SSHIIF

TZIM
BRING THE NOSE UP! UP! KEI!
BANG
YIEE!
VOOOOOM
IT WON'T COME UP!
YEEAAA!
HELP!
KRUSH!
KEI!

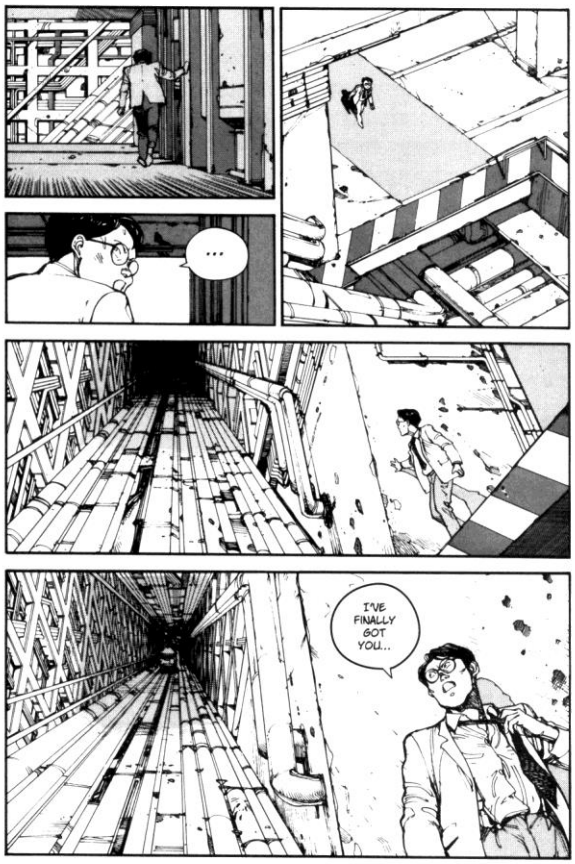

BROOBRO
POUM
WHOA! ARE YOU OKAY?!
OF COURSE I'M OKAY!
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO RYU!

WE'VE GOT TO REACH RYU!
SHOOM !
UHN...
BLAKAM
HE'S GOING TO GET KILLED OUT THERE!
SO WILL WE IF WE TRY TO GO AFTER HIM!
C'MON-- WE'VE GOT TO GET UNDER COVER!

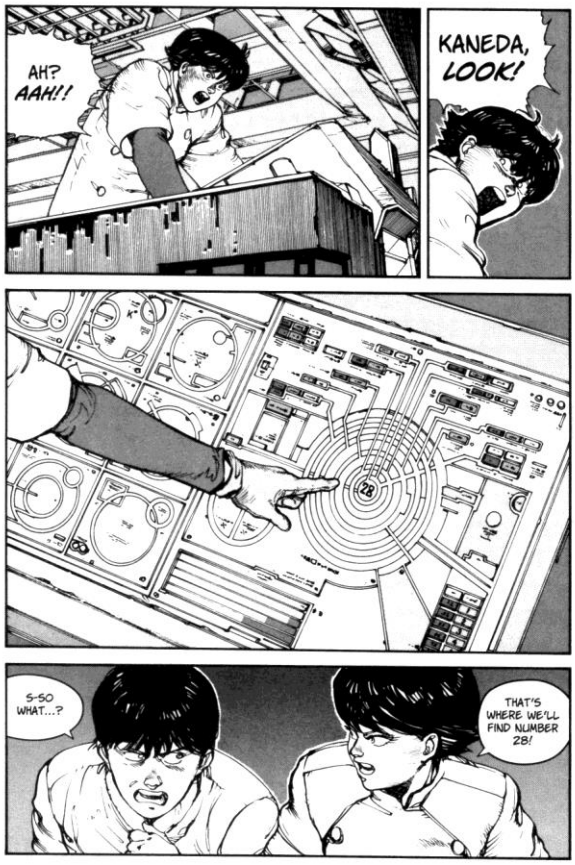

AAUGH!!
OH, SHIT-- THE FUEL PIPELINE!
PULL BACK! WE HAVE TO STOP-- YOU'RE UPSETTING NUMBER 41!


HEH HEH...
I DON'T GET IT. WHY ARE THEY RETREATING?
HEY! C'MERE!
THIS HAS GOTTA BE THE WAY OUT!
BOM BOM
BAK
RRGH!! OPEN, YOU GODDAMN PIECE A' SHIT!

PLAK
PLOK
YAAAAAA!
Viiiooooouuu
WHOA!
ooooouuu
IT'S FREEZING IN HERE!
KIAW
N-NOW WHAT...?
WE KEEP GOING.


...
I'VE FINALLY GOT YOU..

A...
AH...
...ACHOOO!!
I WONDER WHERE WE ARE.
BRRR...I'M FREEZING!
I...I C-C...
....
....
I C-CAN'T T-TAKE THIS! MY B-BALLS ARE GONNA F-FREEZE OFF!
!
C-C'MON! I... UH...I G-GOTTA TAKE A LEAK... R-REALLY...

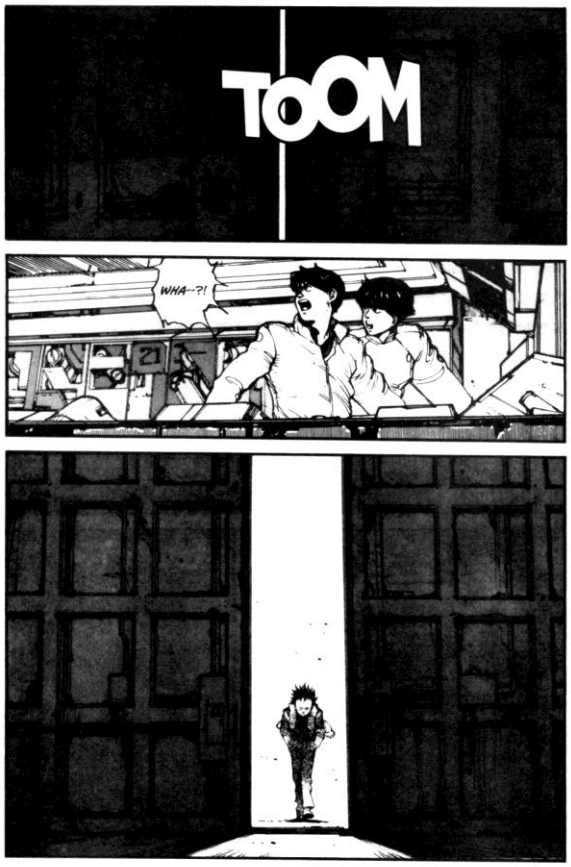

AH?
AAH!!
KANEDA, LOOK!
28
S-SO WHAT...?
THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND NUMBER 28!

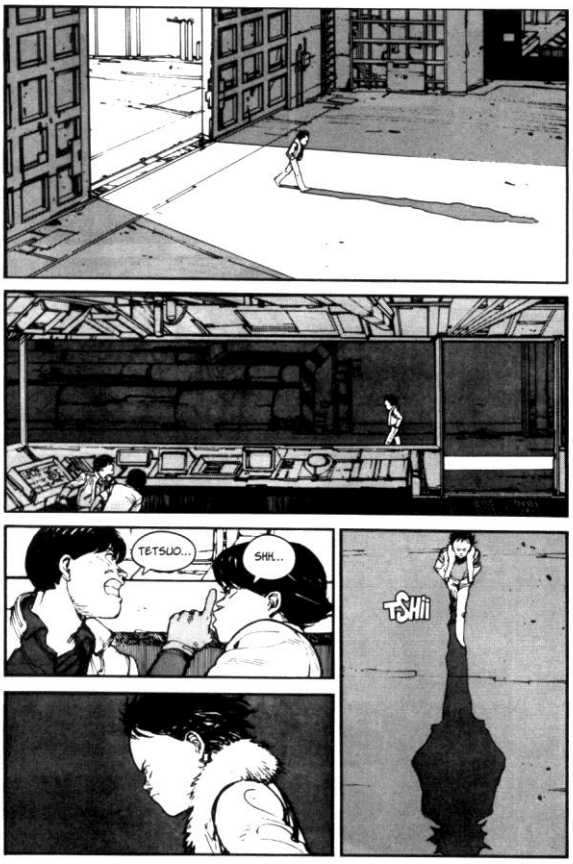
GOONGG
GONG
OONG

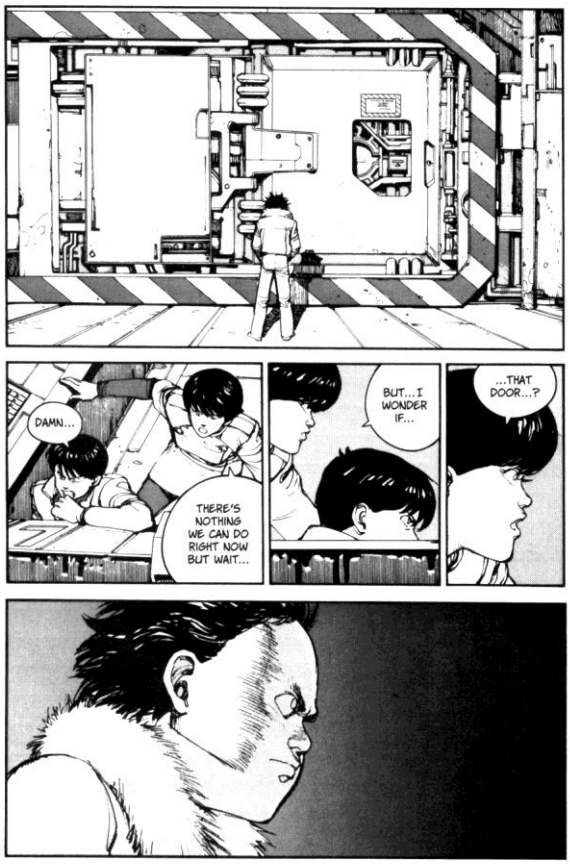
YOU MEAN... THAT'S WHERE AKIRA IS?
EXACTLY! JUST LIKE THAT LITTLE GIRL TOLD US!
...
EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING, BUT... JUST WHAT THE HELL IS "AKIRA" ANYWAY?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO FIND OUT.
SHIT... THIS SETUP LOOKS LIKE A MAZE.
I DUNNO... GOOD LUCK, WE FIND AKIRA.
BAD LUCK, WE RUN INTO SKINHEAD AND HIS GOONS.

WHILE I'M ALIVE, NO ONE IS TO SHOOT WITHOUT MY DIRECT ORDER.
AND IF YOU ARE FORCED TO FIRE...
...YOU MUST KILL HIM WITH THE FIRST SHOT!
THERE WILL BE NO SECOND CHANCES WITH NUMBER 41!
UNDERSTOOD, SIR!

WHERE'D THAT KID GO?
HE WAS JUST HERE A SECOND AGO...
HOLD IT!
THERE'S SOMEONE THERE!
IS IT THE KID?
NO!


TOOM
WHA--?!


TETSUO...
SHH...
TSHii


DAMN...
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW BUT WAIT...
BUT...I WONDER IF...
...THAT DOOR...?

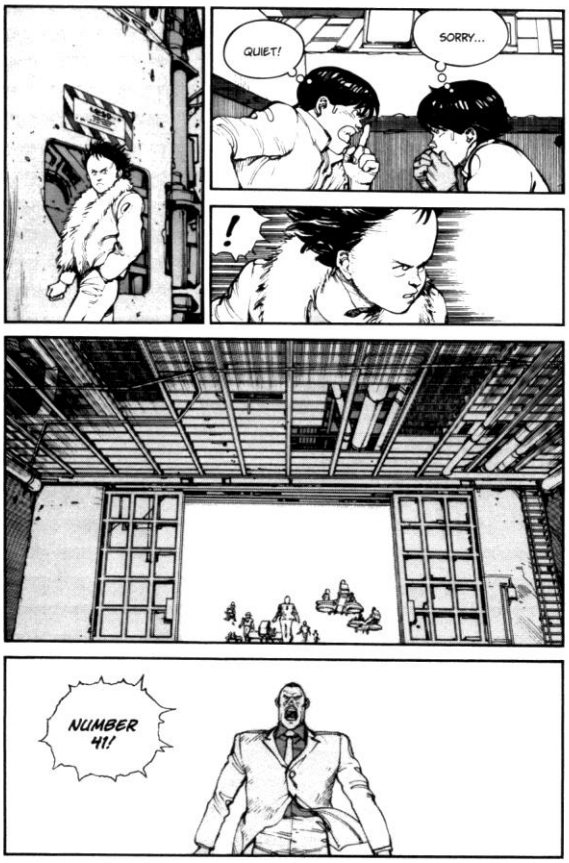
WHO ARE YOU?!
THAT'S NO CONCERN OF YOURS. HOWEVER, I HAVE BUSINESS TO WRAP UP WITH THE MAN BEHIND YOU.
YOU --?!
I LEFT YOU DEAD!
B-BUT... IT CAN'T BE!
AND NOW...
...IT'S YOUR TURN.

WOOiiiii
EH...?
TAK
!
TSAF
POWTCH
UHRN...
UH...
WELL?! HURRY UP AND SHOOT! COME ON-- SHOOT ME!
POC

BLINK
Y-YOU'RE NO ORDINARY AGENT!
HEH...
TING
DIE!
VRAOOOM
WHAT ?!

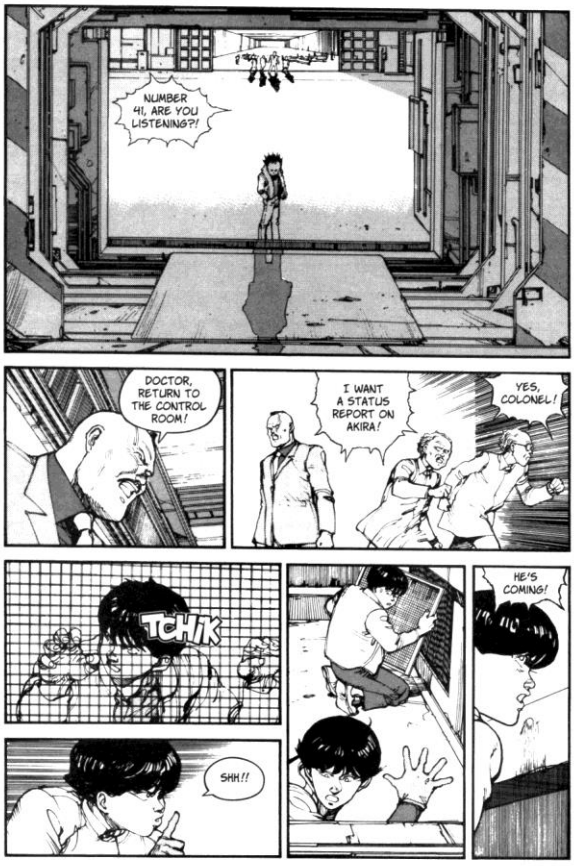
VRRRAAH
COLONEL, I THINK THOSE MEN ARE--
FORGET THEM!
SHIT! THEY'VE PROBABLY CAUGHT KEI!
GO AND FIND HER, RYU! I CAN HANDLE THIS!
RIGHT!
BE CAREFUL!

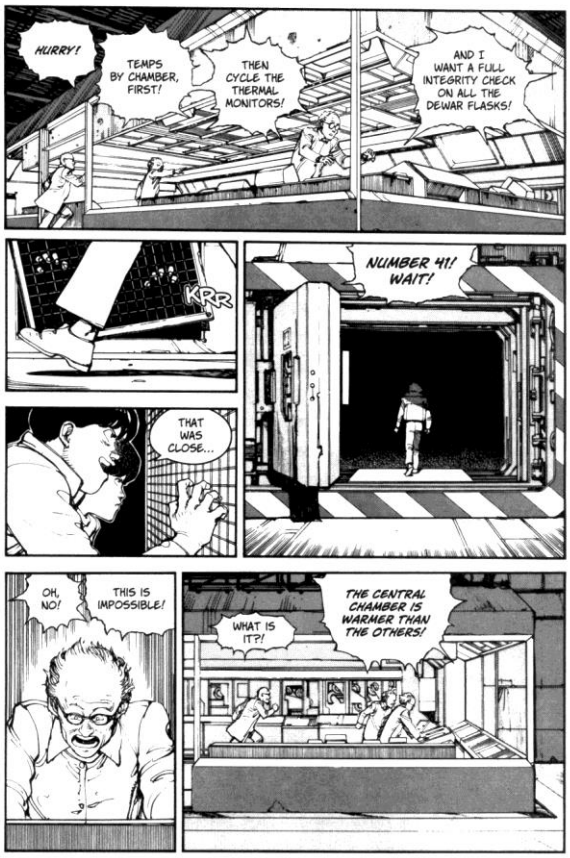
KSHiN
KSHiN
KAKLANG
TWiiiT
YAAAHH!!
HUNH?


QUIET!
SORRY...
!
NUMBER 41!

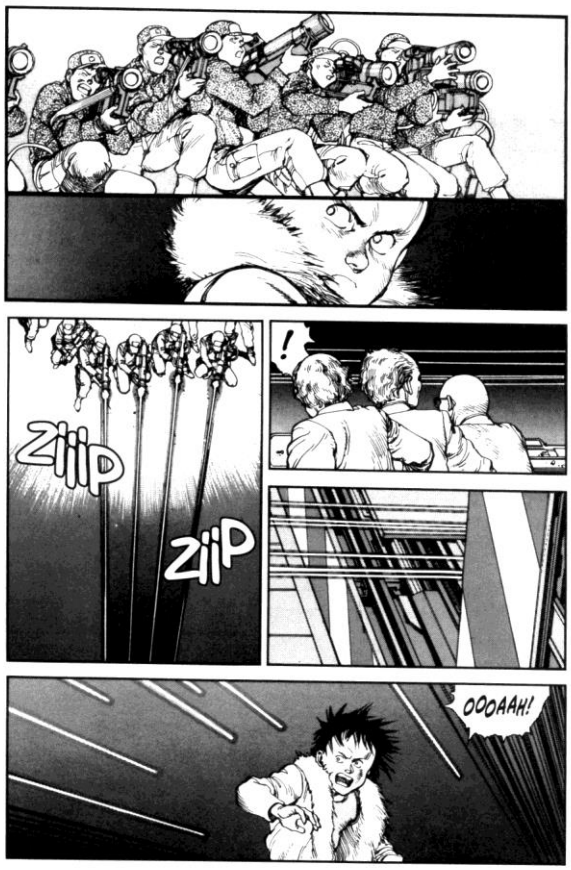
KSHAK
TSUUU
HELLO, DOC...
NUMBER 41, WAIT! LISTEN TO ME!
...
NUM... TETSUO. I BEG YOU--DON'T DO THIS! DON'T DISTURB AKIRA YET!
IF WE WAKES UP NOW, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE EVEN YOU CAN CONTROL HIM!

KSHiii
IT'S ALREADY BEGUN! AKIRA IS RESPONDING TO YOUR PRESENCE!
YOU MUST WITHDRAW WITHOUT AROUSING HIM FURTHER!
HE REPRESENTS A POWER BEYOND YOUR UNDERSTANDING! ONCE YOU AWAKEN HIM, IT WILL BE TOO LATE!
TURN BACK WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THE CHOICE! PLEASE!
NUMBER 41...

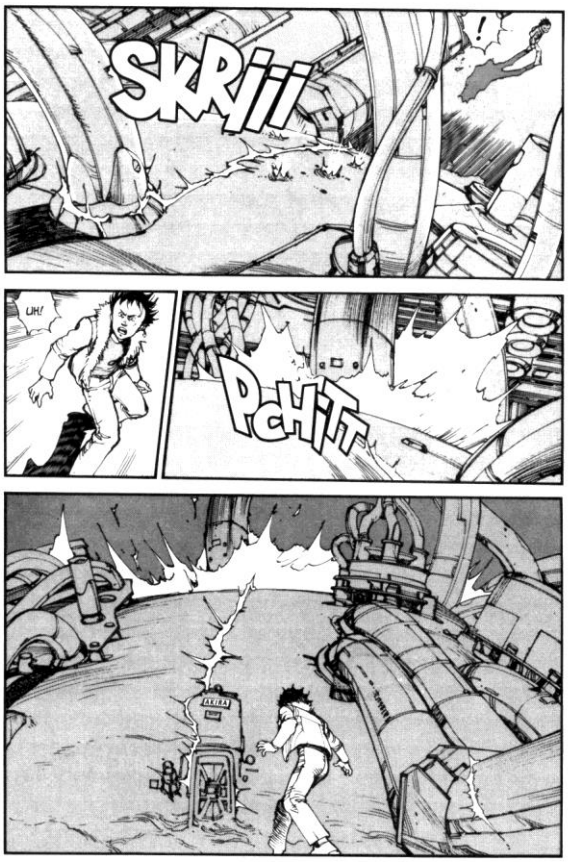

NUMBER 41, ARE YOU LISTENING?!
DOCTOR, RETURN TO THE CONTROL ROOM!
I WANT A STATUS REPORT ON AKIRA!
YES, COLONEL!
TCHIK
SHH!!
HE'S COMING!


HURRY!
TEMPS BY CHAMBER, FIRST!
THEN CYCLE THE THERMAL MONITORS!
AND I WANT A FULL INTEGRITY CHECK ON ALL THE DEWAR FLASKS!
KRR
NUMBER 41! WAIT!
THAT WAS CLOSE...
OH, NO!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT IS IT?
THE CENTRAL CHAMBER IS WARMER THAN THE OTHERS!

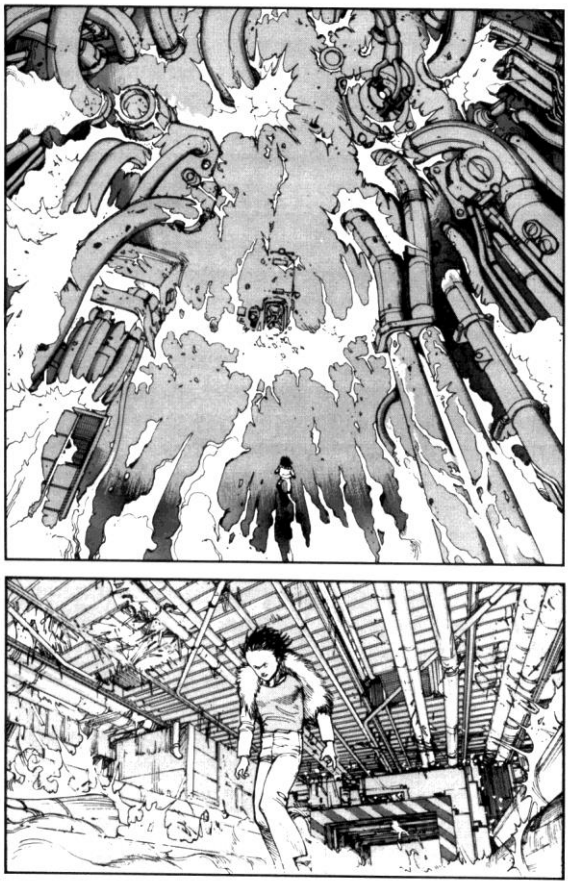
TETSUO!
IS HE... AWAKE?
...
28
INFORM THE COLONEL! NOW!
FIRE!

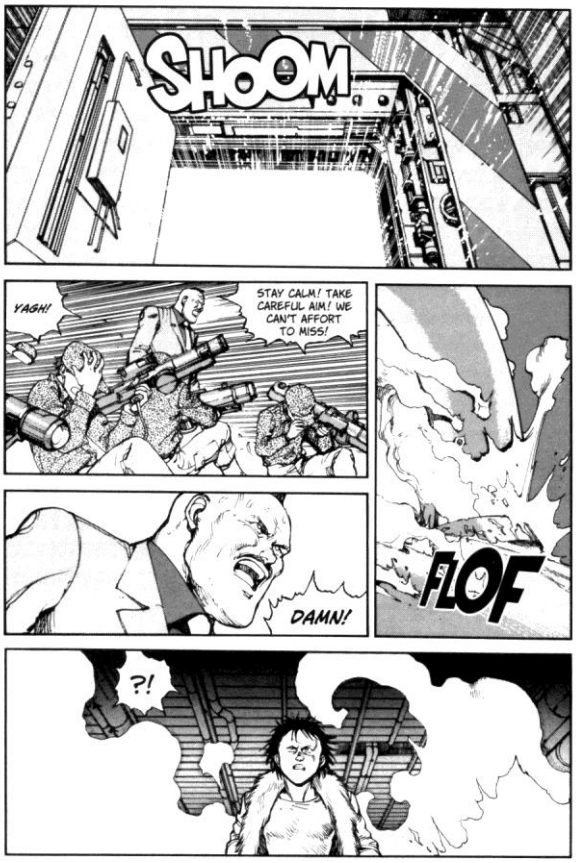

ziiip
ziip
!
OOOAAH!

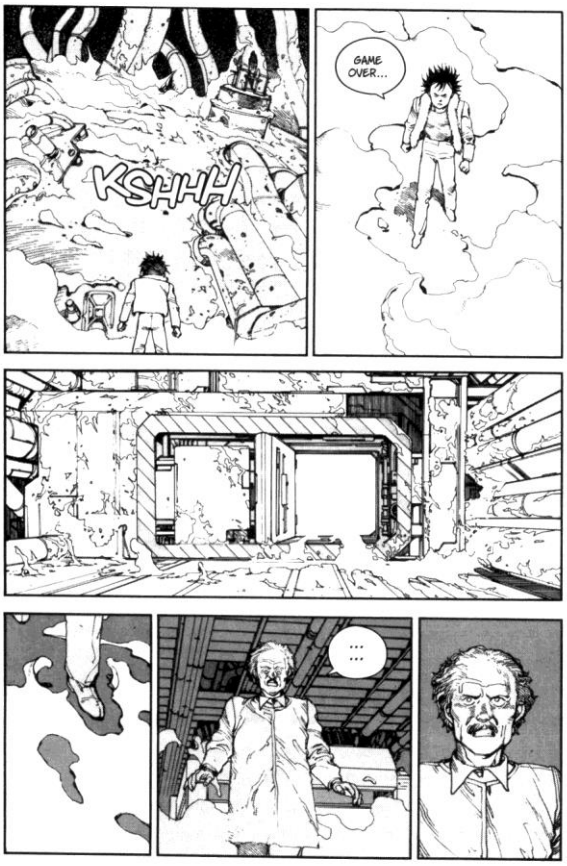
TCHOO-
AGH!
STOP IT!
WHOA!
K-
KANEDA
...!
SWAP
SWAP
SWAP

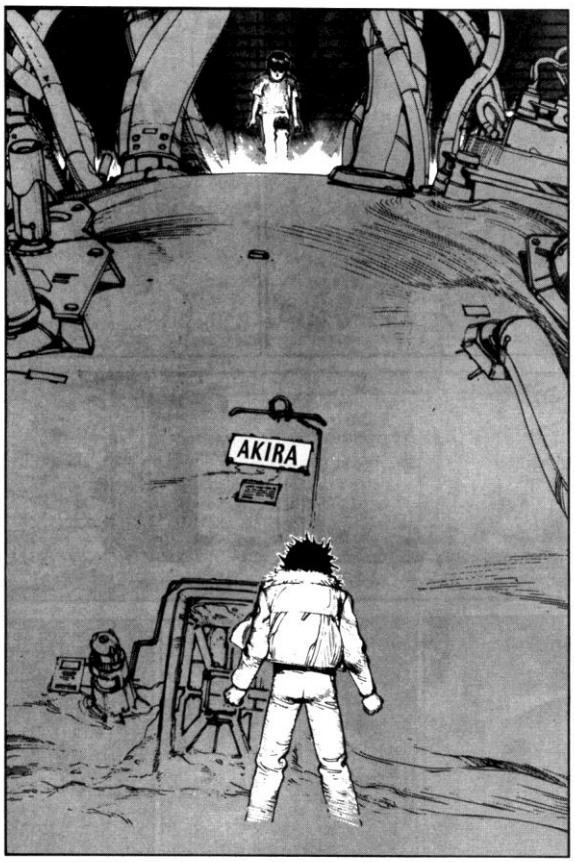

SKRiii
!
UH!
PCHIT
AKIRA

WOOOAAA
WHAT IN—?!
THOSE LASER RIFLES MUST HAVE CUT THROUGH THE OUTER SHIELD AND CRACKED THE FIRST DEWAR FLASK!
NO, WAIT! LOOK AT THIS!!
THE FAILURE IS IN THE DEWAR FLASK OF THE THIRD CHAMBER!
WHAT?!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON OUT THERE?!
WE'RE LOSING VACUUM IN THE SECOND... AND NOW THE FIRST LEVEL DEWAR-FLASKS!
YOU MEAN THEY'RE BEING DESTROYED FROM WITHIN?!?
28




SHOOM
YAGH!
STAY CALM! TAKE CAREFUL AIM! WE CAN'T AFFORT TO MISS!
FLOF
DAMN!
?!


KSHHH
GAME OVER...
...
...


AKIRA

THE SHIELD WALL OF THE INNER CAPSULE HAS BEEN BREACHED!
LOOK!
WHAT?!
KSiNG
FIX IT!
WHA...?! B-BUT...
!
OH --!
GRIIIISH

SHHHH
VOOOUUUIIII
C-COLD--!
...
A..AKI..

ARE YOU AKIRA?!

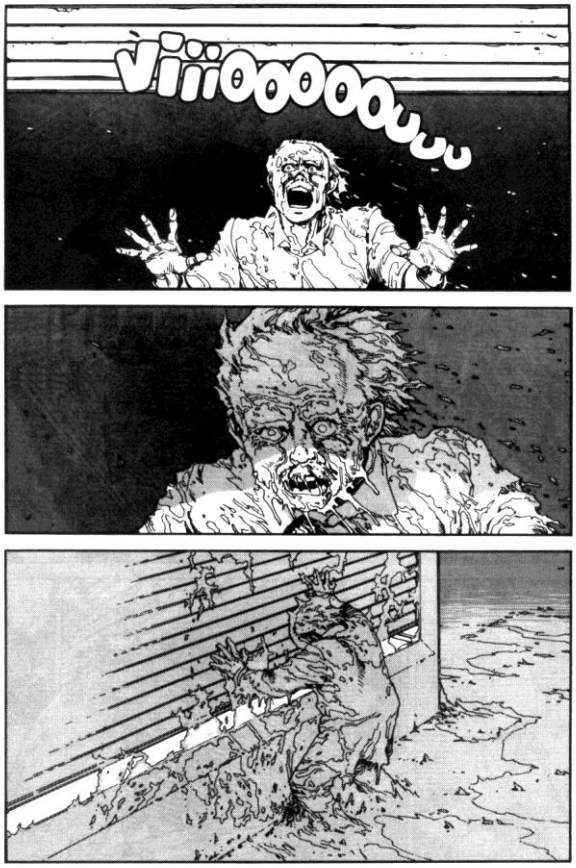
GRiiik
WOAA!
WH... WHAT...
BRRR...!
I...I'M F-F-F- FREEZ- ING!
JESUS! C-C- COLD !!
AKIRA... HE'S...
THE SUPERCOOLANT IS BLEEDING INTO THE AIR! YOU MEN GET INSIDE!
...HE'S AWAKE.

AM I NUTS OR IS IT GETTING GODDAMN COLD IN HERE?
HE'S AWAKE...? MEANING... NO WAY!
GZiiT
SHIT!
YAAH--!
SHiiiiiiz
WHAT IS THIS?!
SHHHH
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! COME ON!!

LOWER THE SHIELDS BEFORE WE ALL FREEZE TO DEATH!
BUT, COLONEL, THE DOCTOR IS STILL OUT-SIDE!
WHAT?!
...UH...
SHRIC
AAIEE!

DON'T PANIC!
THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS ARE SIMPLY REACTING TO THE CHARGE OF SUPERCOOLED AIR!
AGHH!
ZOORT
!
TCHOK
WE...WE HAVE TO DECLARE A CODE 7!
NO! DON'T TOUCH THAT!
...
KRSHH
PSHAAA

YOU IMBECILE!
SLAM
UHNN!
I TOLD YOU-- THIS ISN'T AKIRA!
YOU FOOL!
WOOOAA
BZIM
MY GOD...
BAM


Viiiooooouuu

DOCTOR! NO!
KAKAKLANG

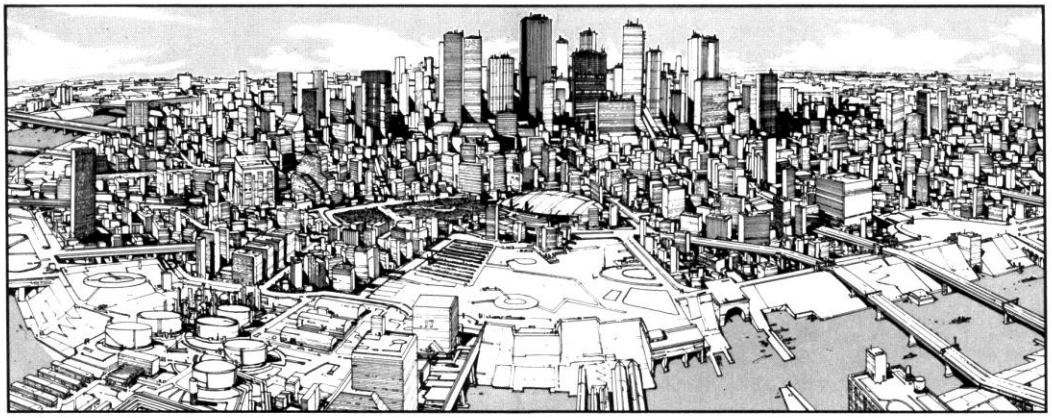
KSHiii

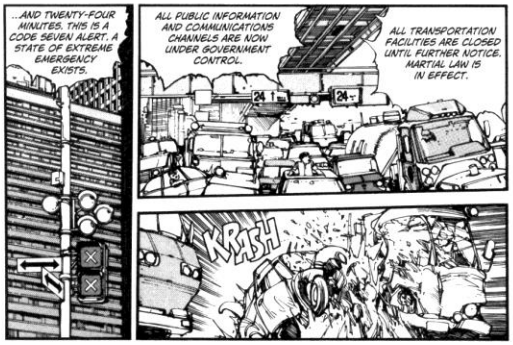
COLONEL!
VVVRROOoooO
IT'S TOO LATE! RETREAT!
THE BULKHEAD DOOR'S CLOSING!
WOOOOAA
HURRY!
FRIGGIN' THING WON'T START!! TOO COLD!!!
DOOM
FINALLY !!
FWOOM
BRR... BRR...
LOOKS LIKE ONE OF OUR GUYS!
WHO'S THAT?
FSSHT
HFF ...?

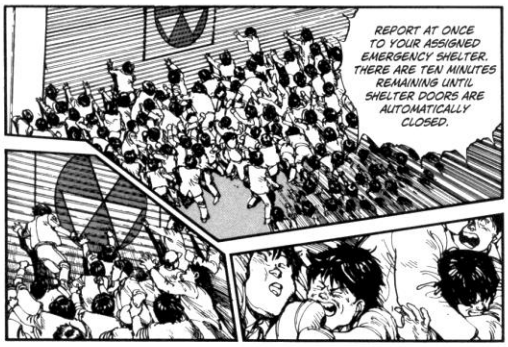
CAN YOU MAKE IT?
FWiiiSH
C'MON, MAN! HAUL ASS!
OOOOAAA
ATTENTION, ALL PERSONNEL-- THIS IS A CODE SEVEN ALERT.
REPORT TO THE NEAREST SHELTER IMMEDIATELY. THIS IS NOT A DRILL.
REPEAT, THIS IS NOT A DRILL...
WOOOOOAAAA

OOOOOOAA
KUNCH
YOU HEAR THAT? A CODE SEVEN ALERT-- WHATEVER'S UP, THE BRASS RANKS IT AS WORSE THAN A NUCLEAR ATTACK!
GLANG
THE PLATFORM... WE'RE MOVING!
BUT I THINK FOR THE MOMENT WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH TO SETTLE WHAT'S BETWEEN US.
ZWUUUU

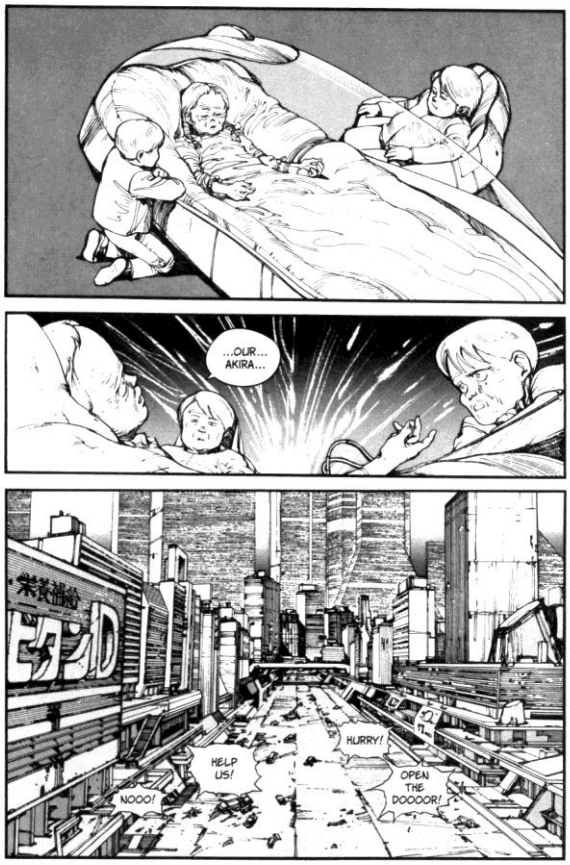
EXIT
5 Km
HIGHWAY
CLOSED
WOOOOOAAAA
DAMN!

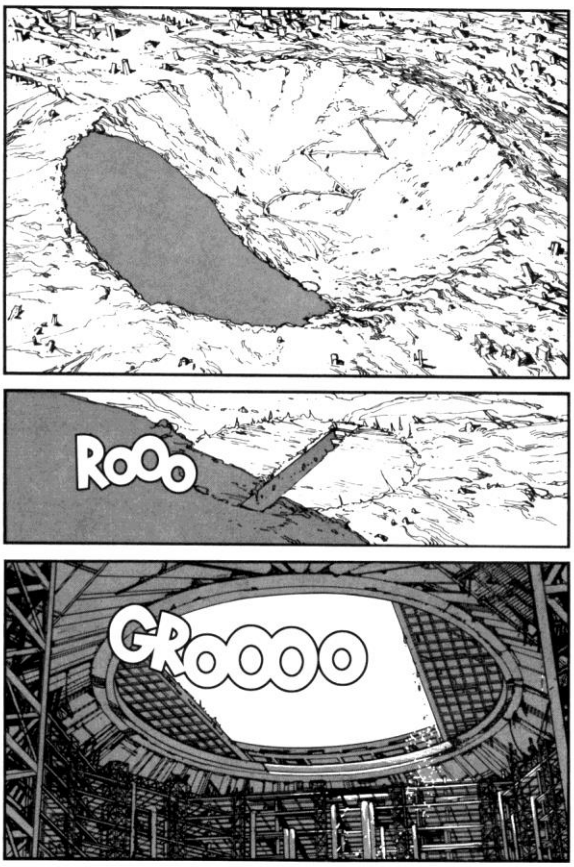



...AND TWENTY-FOUR MINUTES. THIS IS A CODE SEVEN ALERT. A STATE OF EXTREME EMERGENCY EXISTS.
ALL PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS ARE NOW UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL.
ALL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. MARTIAL LAW IS IN EFFECT.
24
24
KRASH


REPORT AT ONCE TO YOUR ASSIGNED EMERGENCY SHELTER. THERE ARE TEN MINUTES REMAINING UNTIL SHELTER DOORS ARE AUTOMATICALLY CLOSED.

GET LADY MIYAKO TO ONE OF THE UNDERGROUND SHELTERS!
WERE'S MR. NEZU?
TAK TAK TAK TAK
...SO...
NO ONE COULD STAND IN THE WAY OF WHAT WAS DESTINED TO BE...
THEN... AKIRA HAS AWAKENED?!
DON'T PANIC. WE MAY STAY HERE AWHILE... BEFORE DISASTER REACHES ITS HAND TOWARD US...
MR. NEZU... LADY MIYAKO, WE MUST LEAVE NOW!
SILENCE, FOOL!


...OUR... AKIRA...
HELP US!
NOOO!
HURRY!
OPEN THE DOOOOR!


ROOO
GROOOO

GROOOOOF
COLONEL— LOOK!
THE MAIN HATCH IS OPENING!
IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE'S BEEN NEAR THOSE CONTROLS.
I...I'M SORRY, SIR. PERHAPS THE ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE CAUSED BY THE EXTREME COLD HAS SHORTED OUT THE CONTROLS.
URR ...!
BASH
NOW WHAT ?!

FLAAM
HEY... MUST BE A WAY OUT. COOL.
MIGHT AS WELL USE IT. C'MON, KID!
LET'S MOVE--I'M FREEZING MY ASS OFF DOWN HERE.
Pshhh

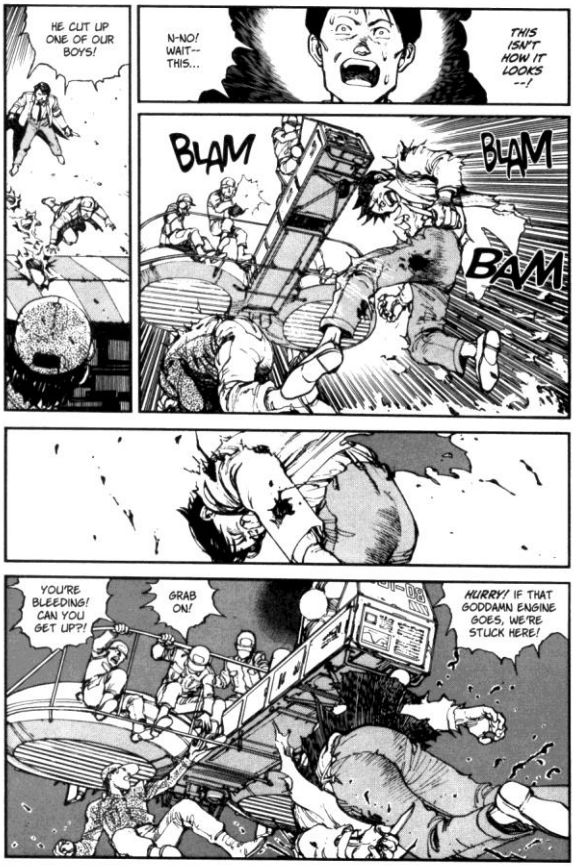
HEY!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
SNAP OUT OF IT!
CHATTER CHATTER
IF WE STAY HERE WE'LL ALL FREEZE!
COLONEL!
WHAT'S THE TEMPERATURE IN HERE?
C-CURRENTLY TWENTY... NO, TWENTY-ONE BELOW ZERO...
... ...
WAIT! THE TEMPERATURE IS STARTING TO STABILIZE!
OF COURSE! THE HELIUM COOLANT'S NOW ESCAPING UPWARDS THROUGH THE MAIN HATCH!
WHY HASN'T THE EMERGENCY HEATING SYSTEM KICKED IN YET?!

Pshhh
?
YAAA!
PcHIT
EEEE!
KWIIF
THE COLD'S SEEPING IN OVER HERE TOO!
WE'LL BOTH BE FROZEN SOLID!
C'MON! MAYBE WE CAN GET OUT THROUGH HERE!

IT'S CLOSING--!
ROOOO
NOOO!
HEYAAAA!!
KSiiiF
ALMOST THERE!
HANG ON!
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE RIGHT ENGINE!
SHIIIIT!
SLiiiZ

ZWUUUUU
JUUU
GRAAHHRR!
HIYAA!
BOK
KSHIN
SHAK

CHUD
AAIEEE!!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, FRIEND...NOW IT'S TIME FOR PAY-BACK.
NGGG...
!
TSHIF
THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE ELEVATOR!
SDI-08
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!
ONE OF THEM'S GOT A KNIFE!


HE CUT UP ONE OF OUR BOYS!
N-NO! WAIT-- THIS...
THIS ISN'T HOW IT LOOKS --!
BLAM
BLAM
BAM
YOU'RE BLEEDING! CAN YOU GET UP?!
GRAB ON!
HURRY! IF THAT GODDAMN ENGINE GOES, WE'RE STUCK HERE!

HEY!
BEHIND YOU!
!
CHUK!
YAAGHH!
WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR THIS!
YOU CAN FIGHT IT OUT IN HELL!
POOM
POOM
NO! W-WAIT ...
AUGH!

NO, WAIT! THAT GUY'S A FRIEND OF MINE!
GO BACK! PLEASE!
TOO LATE! THE COLD WAVE'S ABOUT TO HIT!
NOOO!
...
TSSSIF

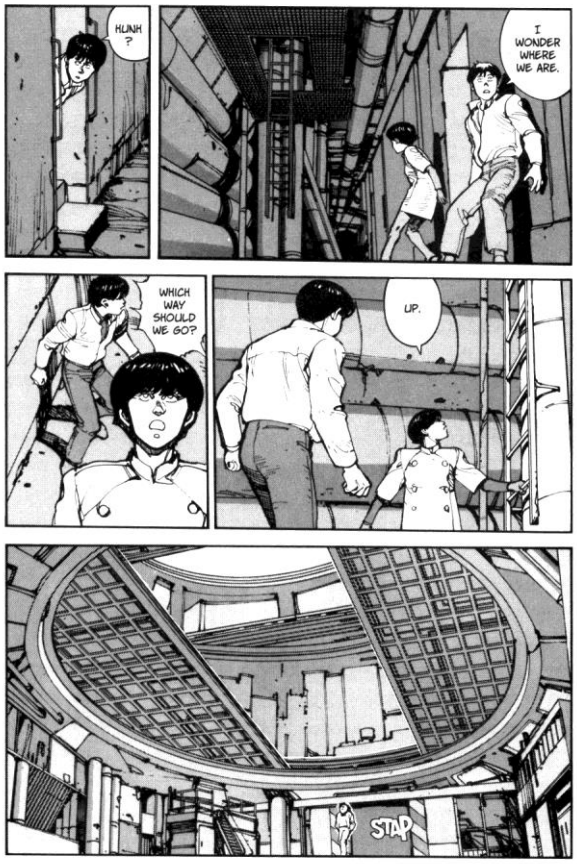
WELL, SHIT!
C-CAN WE REALLY GET OUT THROUGH HERE?!
WHO KNOWS? WORTH A SHOT, ANYWAY.
IT BETTER NOT TAKE M-MUCH LONGER OR WE'LL FREEZE TO D-DEATH.
HEY!!
A PASSAGE!
LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF DUCT...
SURE AS SHIT HOPE IT'S NOT A COOLING DUCT!
WOAA!
GWAk

TWAK
AHRR!
VOON
THE POWER'S BACK ON!
AND THE HEATING SYSTEM HAS FINALLY KICKED IN!
NOW! CHECK THE MONITORS! I WANT A REPORT ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF NUMBER 41!
CHECK THE ENTIRE AREA! I WANT TO SEE EACH CAMERA IN TURN UP ON THE SCREEN!
VOOON
WHAT THE HELL?!
WELL, I'M NOT STICKING AROUND TO FIND OUT!

SPAK
HE'S TRYING TO LEAVE THROUGH THE ROOF!
INCREDIBLE. HOW CAN HE SURVIVE SUCH EXTREME TEMPERATURES?

HUH--?
WHO'S THAT?!
ZOOM IN WITH THE CAMERA! I WANT TO SEE WHO'S WITH HIM!
IT'S A CHILD!
WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
WE'VE MAGNIFIED THE IMAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, SIR.
A... AKIRA...
THE FOOL HAS AWAKENED AKIRA!

IS THAT...
IS THAT REALLY AKIRA?!
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING-- AKIRA HASN'T EVEN USED HIS POWERS YET!
BAM
DAMN IT!!
GET ME THE LAB! WE'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!
I DON'T CARE! WE'RE GOING TO NEED MISSILES... FIGHTER PLANES! CALL FOR EVERY WEAPON AVAILABLE!
BUT...COLONEL... WE'RE UNDER A CODE SEVEN LOCKDOWN...


HUNH ?
I WONDER WHERE WE ARE.
WHICH WAY SHOULD WE GO?
UP.
STAP

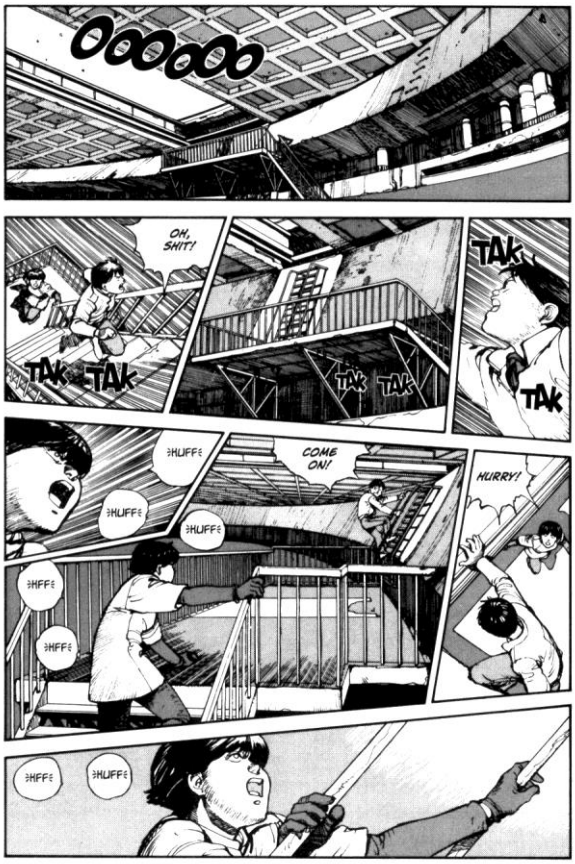
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? OH, I GET IT. IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE YOU'VE SEEN THE SUN.
I'VE GOT IT!
WHA...
WE'LL USE A DEFENSE SATELLITE! GET ME SOL!
B-BUT, COLONEL...

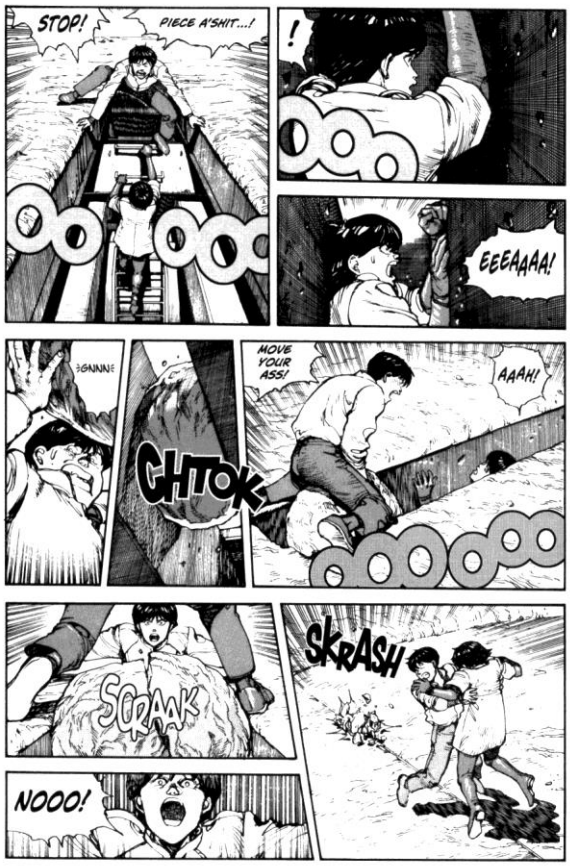
CAN SOL BE CONTROLLED FROM HERE?
IT-IT'S POSSIBLE...
...BUT ONLY IF THE CONTROL CENTER PATCHES US THROUGH!
DO IT! WE MUST KILL THEM BOTH... DESTROY THEM WHILE WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE!
!
TAKE A LOOK!
AT WHAT?
OH!
SUNLIGHT!

THAT'S IT...GOOD BOY!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!!

HUFF
TAK
TAK
HUFF
TWO FLIGHTS TO GO...
HMM?
WHAT IS IT?
GROOOO
IT'S MOVING!
COME ON!
WE HAVE TO GET THROUGH IT BEFORE IT CLOSES!

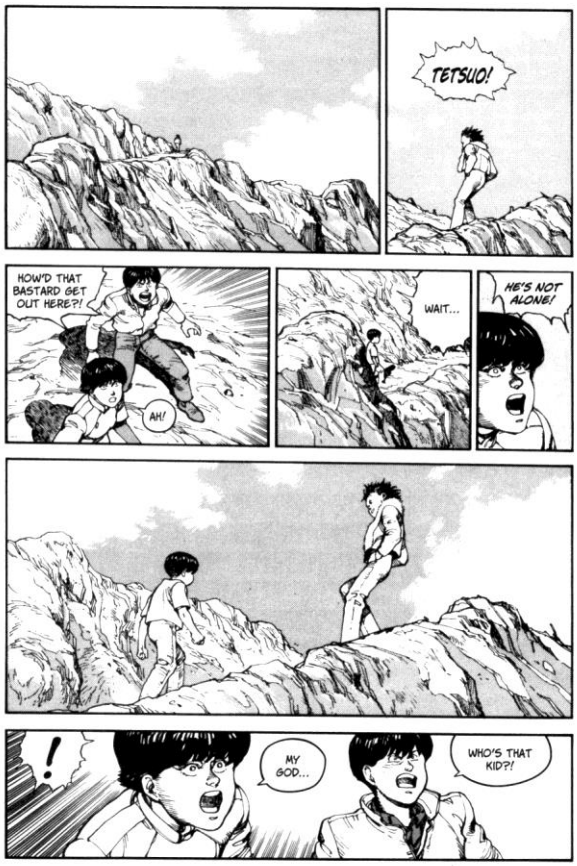
ROOOOOOO
THEY MUST HAVE REACHED THE OUTSIDE BY NOW. SEE IF YOU CAN GET ME A PICTURE!
YES, SIR. WE'RE ADJUSTING THE REMOTE ON SOL'S CAMERAS NOW.
I'M AFRAID OUR EQUIPMENT HERE ISN'T SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO CAPTURE THE FULL RANGE OF THE SENSORY DATA SOL SENDS US...
I'M GETTING AN IMAGE!
GOOD! GO AHEAD!
THE MAIN HATCH WILL BE COMPLETELY CLOSED IN ONE MINUTE!


OOOOOO
OH, SHIT!
TAK TAK
TAK TAK
TAK
TAK
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
COME ON!
HURRY!
HFF
HFF
HFF
HUFF

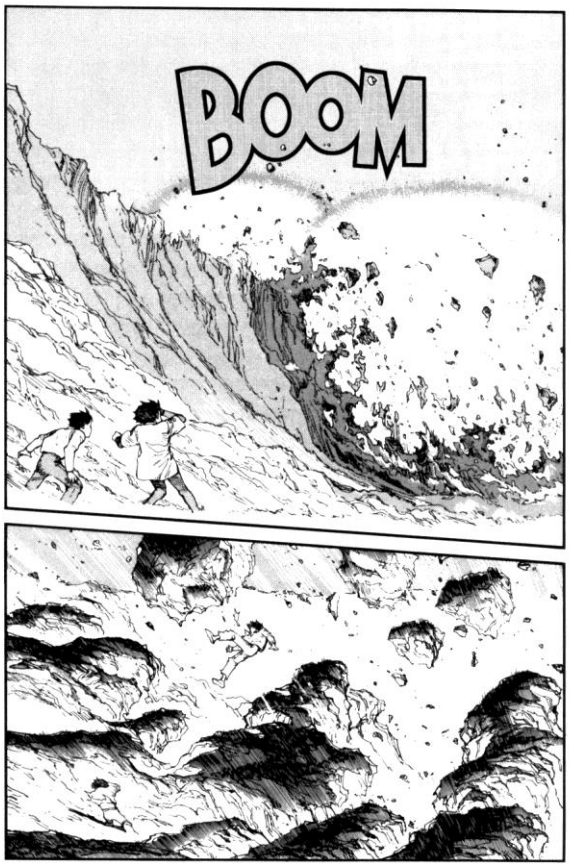

STOP!
PIECE A'SHIT...!
!
EEEAAAA!
AGNNNE
CHTOK
MOVE YOUR ASS!
AAAH!
SQRAAK
SKRASH
NOOO!

WHEW!
THANKS, KANEDA... REALLY.
YOU MUSTA BEEN SCARED, HUH?
WELL, FOR A SECOND THERE I THOUGHT...
...YOU WERE...
VOOF
HEY!
C'MON... I WAS JUST...
SLAP
OWW!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
:GASP:
THANK YOU. YOUR ASSISTANCE WAS APPRECIATED.

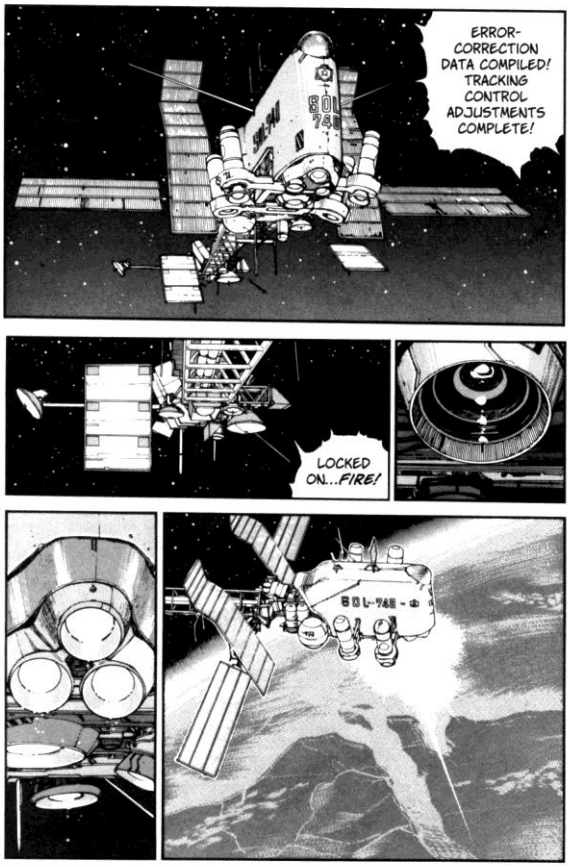
HUH? WHAT?
THIS PLACE!
THIS IS GROUND ZERO— THE PLACE WHERE THE BOMB WENT OFF!
NO SHIT...
A TOP-SECRET BASE...
...AT THE VERY CENTER OF THE DESTRUCTION ...
I WONDER WHAT IT MEANS...?
HUH ...?
IT... IT CAN'T BE...
HEY, LOOK!


TETSUO!
HOW'D THAT BASTARD GET OUT HERE?!
AH!
WAIT...
HE'S NOT ALONE!
!
MY GOD...
WHO'S THAT KID?!

...?
HUH ...?!
NO, I'M NOT!!
MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS...
WHAT IS THAT?!


BOOM

SHIT! YOU MISSED THEM!
I'M SORRY, SIR. AT THIS RANGE, OUR ACCURACY IS LIMITED!
GOOD GOD...
TAKE AIM AGAIN!


ERROR-CORRECTION DATA COMPILED! TRACKING CONTROL ADJUSTMENTS COMPLETE!
LOCKED ON...FIRE!

BLAKAM
AAAAH!
AKIRAAA!
EEYAAA!

KRUMB
RUN!
YAAH!
THIS WAY!
EEEEE!
BROOM

AKIRA
...?!
SHIT!
BOOOOOO
NNGRAA!
KRUSH

AKIRA!
!
KRONK

KRRR
KRR
OH--!
LOOK!
IT'S THE LITTLE BOY WE SAW!
KSHHH
GAIN...
GOLO GOLO
!
VLAM

ARE YOU NUTS? WE'RE IN DEEP ENOUGH SHIT WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT SOME KID!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
!

ZBRAT
ZBAM
COLONEL, THE HATCH--!
SHUT UP!
A HOLE OR TWO IN THE HATCH DOESN'T MATTER!
DID WE GET THEM?!
HFF
HUFF

AAAH!

...RYU...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO RESCUE THIS KID, SO HOW COME I GET STUCK CARRYING HIM?
EEYAAAAAAA!

[redacted]

IN THE 21ST CENTURY,

Neo-Tokyo has risen from the ashes of a Tokyo obliterated by a monstrous psychokinetic power known only as Akira, a being who yet lives, secretly imprisoned in frozen stasis. Those who stand guard know that Akira's awakening is a terrifying inevitability. Tetsuo Yamashita, an angry young man with immense — and rapidly growing — psychic abilities, may be their only hope to control Akira when he wakes. But Tetsuo is becoming increasingly unstable and harbors a growing obsession to confront Akira face-to-face. A clandestine group including his former best friend sets out to destroy Tetsuo before he can release Akira — or before Tetsuo himself becomes so powerful that no force on Earth can stop him!

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"Packed with gravity, mystery, and power."
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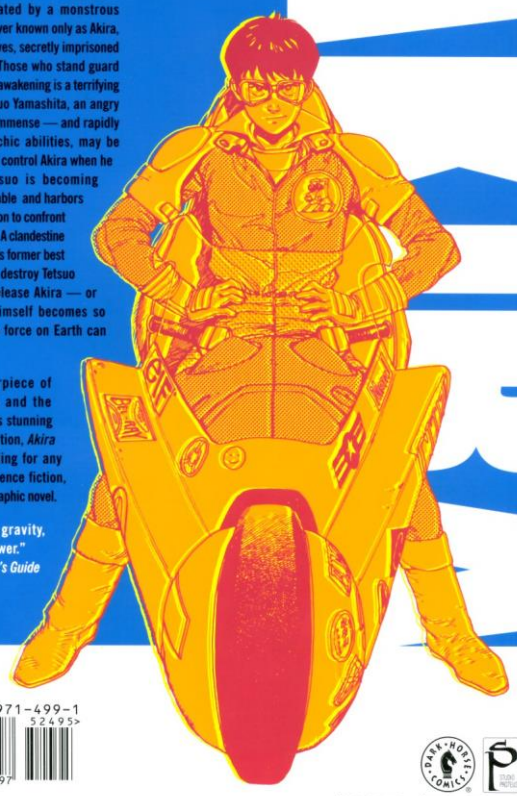

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AKIRA

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KATSUHIRO OTOMO

ISBN 1-56971-499-1
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